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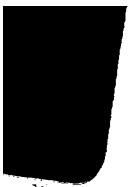
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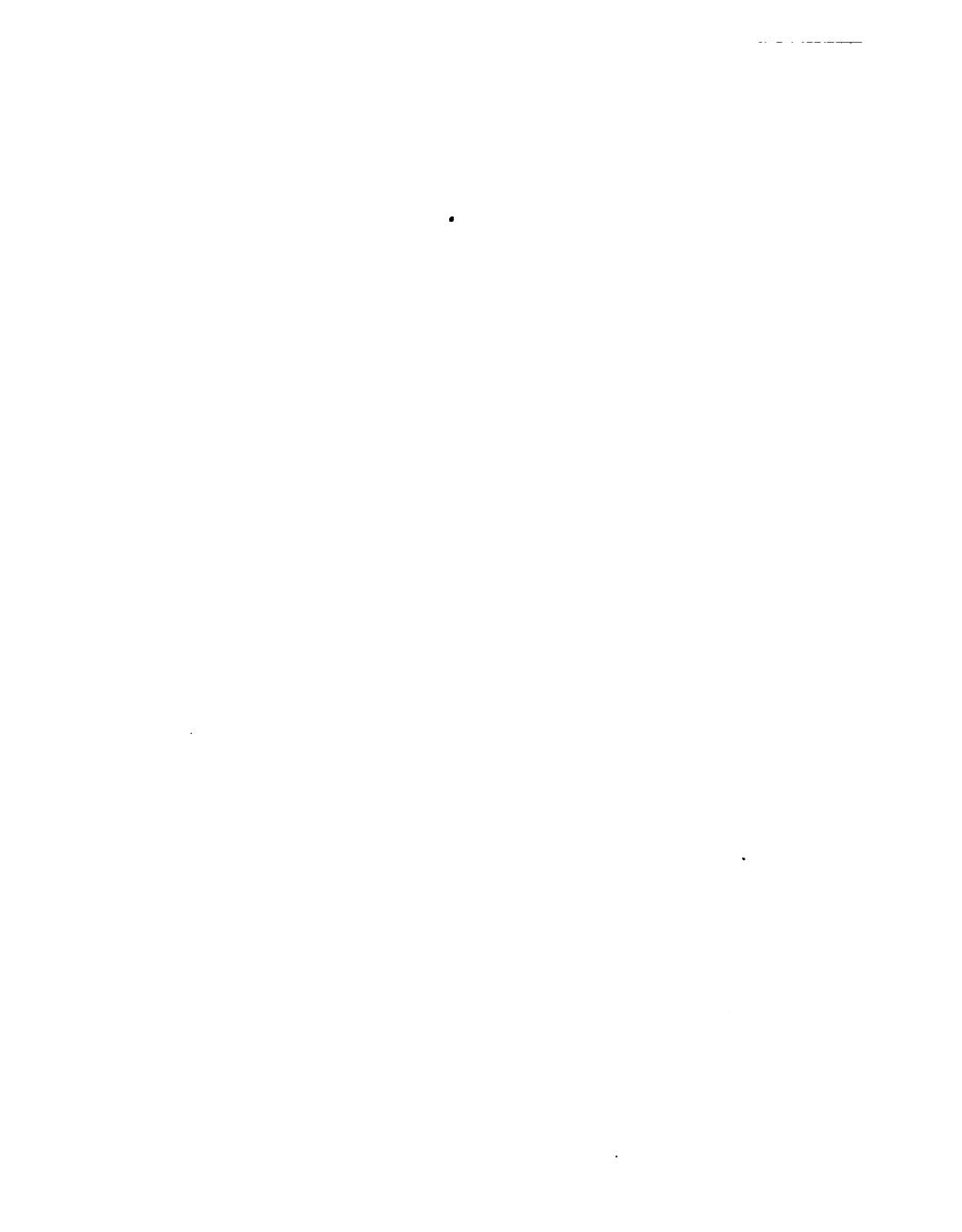
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CHIMES  
FROM  
BY-GONE YEARS.







# CHIMES FROM BY-GONE YEARS.

*THOUGHTS FOR DAILY READING.*

BY

CHARLOTTE BICKERSTETH WHEELER,

AUTHOR OF

*"Memorials of a Beloved Mother," "Taking the Consequences,"  
"Gleams through the Mists," &c.*

WITH A PREFACE

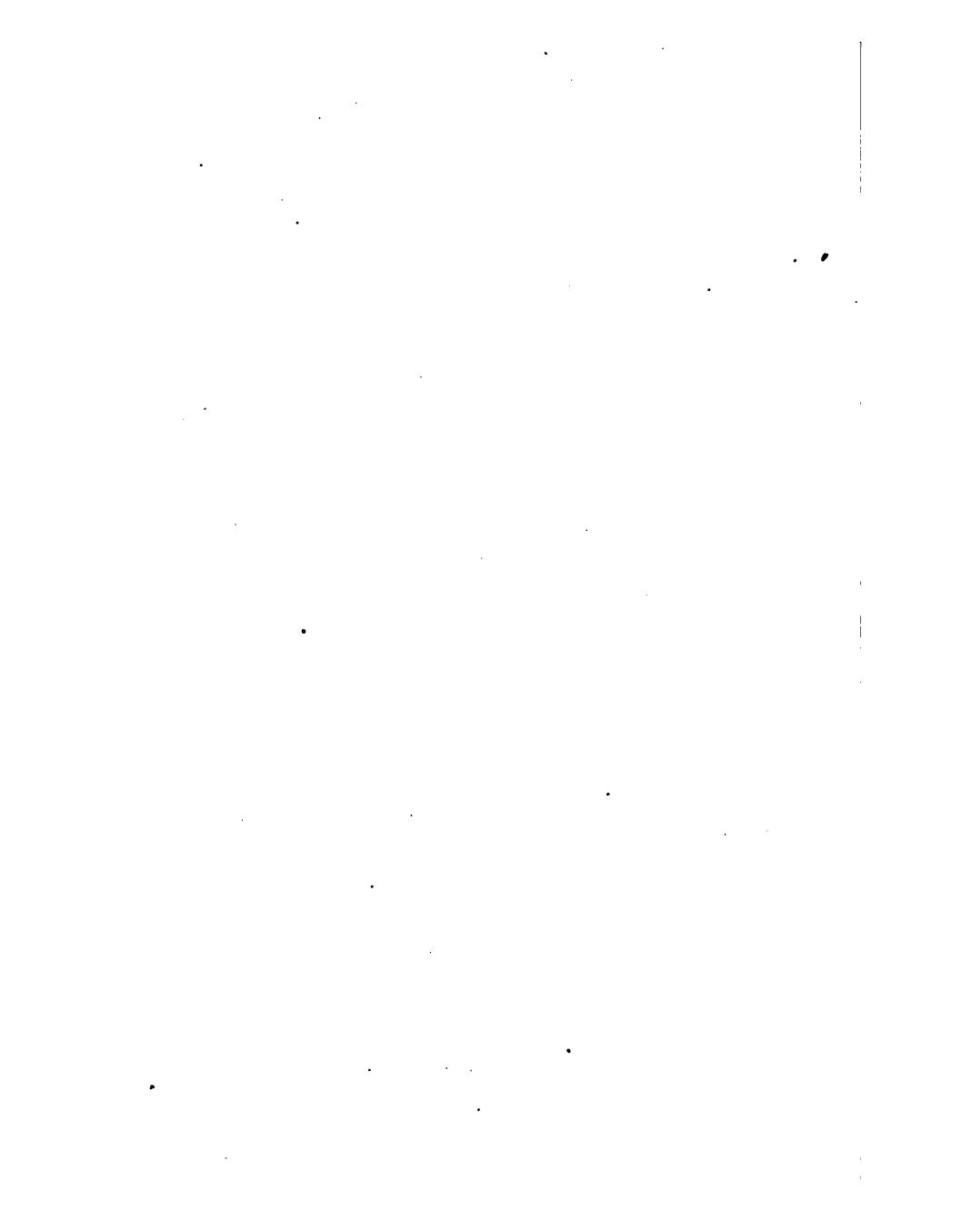
By THE LORD BISHOP OF RIPON.

"The subject of a man's thoughts contributes much to the formation  
of his character."—BISHOP MARY.

"The old thoughts never die."—DR. MACKAY.

LONDON:  
ELLIOT STOCK, 62, PATERNOSTER ROW, E.C.  
1878.

141. 22. 785.



## P R E F A C E.

—:o:—

THIS volume is a collection of many valuable thoughts variously expressed, with no marked or definite connection between them, except that all have a tendency to lift the mind from things which are seen and temporal, up to those which are unseen and eternal. These thoughts have been expressed in word or writing by not a few of the devoted servants of Christ, who have attained eminence for practical wisdom and personal holiness. Many of them are suggestive ; all have some degree of value. It is more than probable that the perusal of them

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may prove a source of comfort to the sorrowful, of guidance to the perplexed, of strength to the tempted, of peace to the troubled.

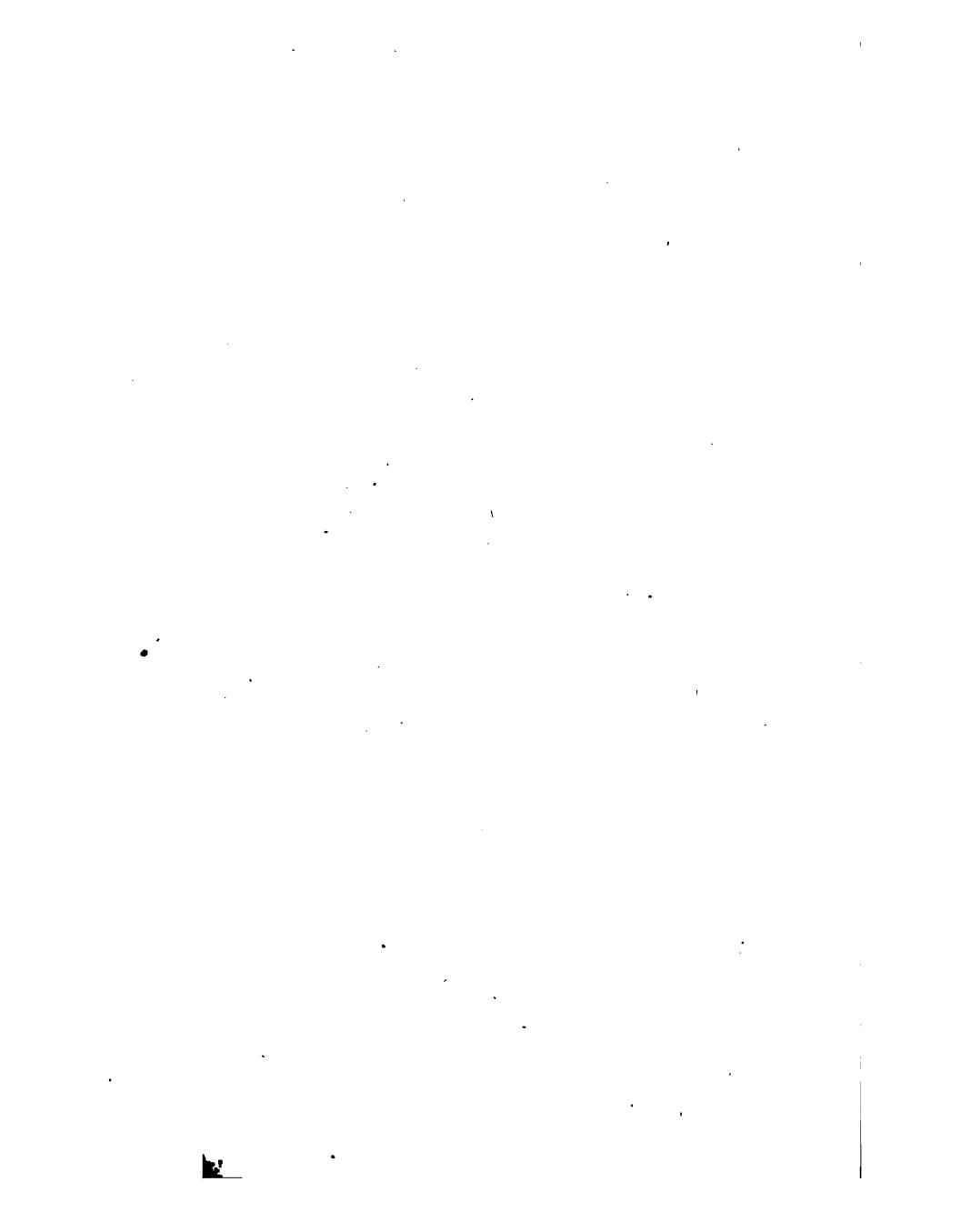
It will be seen that the book is arranged in daily portions for daily reading throughout the year. The material of which these portions consist has been collected in the course of studying many authors, for more than twenty years past. The compiler may thus have the gratification of believing that studies which have enriched and refreshed her own mind may, by God's blessing, become instrumental, through means of this publication, to enrich and refresh others. It is one of our greatest privileges,—it ought to be one of our most constant aims,—to impart to others the spiritual blessings which God graciously permits us to receive. "The unction of the saint is bestowed in order that we may render the duty of the servant." All knowledge, all grace, is a talent to be employed to the glory of God. May the publication of

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this unpretending volume minister to the praise of the Redeemer, and to the spiritual edification of many. Such I know to be the earnest desire of the compiler; such is the prayer of him who in these brief sentences heartily commends the book to the perusal of his brethren and sisters in Christ.

R. RIPON.

JULY 1, 1878.



## INTRODUCTION.

—:o:—

THE title of this book does not imply that all whose holy comforting thoughts are here recorded have crossed the River; the majority, indeed, have done so, some of them centuries ago, but others, thank God, are with us still, repeating in our generation the “melodies of the everlasting chime,” which will resound from age to age till Christ shall come, and earth’s discords are resolved into the harmonies of Heaven.

Great were the diversities of opinion amongst those whose wise and tender words are now for the first time brought together. The thoughts of Luther were not identical with St. Augustine’s; nor those of Goodwin with Bishop Taylor’s; but, to each, Christ was his very life’s Life.

When, by means of the spectroscope, a beam

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of white light is analysed, it is found to be composed of rays of various colours ; but although these rays have different degrees of refrangibility, they all blend, and form part of the one beam. So, there are “many members, yet but one body.”

It is a matter of deep importance to our own souls individually to which Church we belong ; but it is far more important to know that we are resting on Christ alone, on *nothing* but Christ, our one and only Saviour. Could we know that the Second Advent is so close at hand, that He would come ere the year closes, there are two things, apart from our own personal sins, of which we should feel heartily ashamed,—the low, broken, tottering wall which now separates His fold from the world, and the astonishing height of the partitions which we have erected between Our Father’s other children and ourselves.

All nature shows diversity ; no two cloudlets in the deep blue sky, no two blades of grass, are exactly similar. In Holy Scripture the inspired words of Solomon and of Isaiah strike quite different chords ; and St. Paul’s deep reasonings are far unlike the words of St. John to his

"little children." Yet "one and the selfsame Spirit" moved all to write as they severally did.

The word "Chimes," selected for the title of this volume, suggests the idea of harmony in variety. The bells of a cathedral differ from each other in size, weight, quality, and tone ; but were any one to propose recasting them, and making all alike, so that they might sound in unison, the dean and chapter would decline the experiment.

The materials for this book have been collected during half a life-time, in those brief leisure moments that only workers can find ; for they alone know the beneficial effect of one kind of occupation in resting and recreating them for another.

A generation has passed away since the compiler adopted a plan which she earnestly recommends to all students, of keeping a large commonplace-book, folio size, alphabetically arranged, in which to transcribe any striking thought wherever met with.

These extracts have chiefly furnished the contents of this volume, in which the writers' names have been given wherever they could be

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ascertained, except in the pages taken from private sources.\*

It is true that, as a drawer long retains the fragrance of some sweet perfume once placed there, so no holy thought that has done its part in our soul-culture is really lost, even if we cannot exactly recall it; but, once transcribed, it may be like a living "brook in the way," refreshing us continually on our life journey. Nay, more than this, other sorrowful eyes may brighten as they read it, when *our* eyes have seen "the King in His beauty," in our Father's House, our own, our only *Home*. May the Holy Spirit's blessing, sought by much prayer, rest on this effort to comfort His weary ones; to awaken some parents to a more abiding sense of their deep responsibilities, and to encourage others with a brighter hope and confidence that He who *trusted* them with their precious children will in no wise withhold their "wages," but will reward a thousand-fold their watchful, loving, prayerful training of the little ones whom He so dearly cherishes.

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\* The initial "N." is that of a lady who compiles "Good Sayings" for the Rev. Erskine Clarke's *Parish Magazine*, whence the extracts with this signature were taken.

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May many a lonely occupant of a sick chamber, pondering the thoughts which have cheered other sufferers on the weary road of slow, lingering pain, by which not a few have to journey homewards, take courage and remember that waking to a new day's anguish is also waking to new tokens of our loving Saviour's presence ; and that even the midnight tossing, the heavy, tired eyelids, that so often closed in vain ere sleep came, were marked very pitifully by His tender Eye.

May many bereaved ones, especially many Rachels weeping for their children, realise that, if our own poor faith fail not, our treasures, whom God lent to us, and then recalled, are ours still, will be ours for ever. Let us picture them, fair and bright and blessed, beyond all that heart can think or desire,—loving us far more intensely than ever, watching for us at the gates of pearl, which now and then so stand ajar that we, whose dearest are in God's Paradise, can almost think we catch a passing gleam of dazzling robes, or some faint, sweet echo of “blest voices uttering joy.”

May many workers in the vineyard, bearing “the burden and heat of the day,” “faint”

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sometimes, “yet pursuing” still, be animated by the soul-inspiring words of those who have now passed, or are passing, one by one, from toil to rest. May we all, in the beautiful words of a living writer, gain “a nearer sense of our Saviour’s presence, a closer enfolding in the arms of His tenderness,” and go forth in His strength, to do Him better service than ever, till He bids us “come up higher.”

SUFFOLK HOUSE,  
SOUTH NORWOOD, S.E.

*July, 1878.*

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## *CHIMES FROM BY-GONE YEARS.*

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January 1.

### THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR.

“‘Ponder the path of thy feet.’ O my God ! make me to feel the rapidity of my pilgrimage. As years roll over me may I find my repose in eternity ; and give me to be more attached to my Saviour, and more acquiescing in the whole of His will concerning me. O Heavenly Father ! carry on my sanctification.”

DR. CHALMERS.

“We are now launched on the wide waters of another year.”

MC NEILE.

“As you look out upon the future, wondering how many more days or years shall be allotted you, commit the unknown future into those Hands to Whom it belongs to mould it. Ye are the Lord’s, and for His own shall He not provide ?”

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January 2.

THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR.

"Lord, fill my life with service or with song  
To Thee, my Master, through the gliding year ;  
For daily praises may my voice be clear,  
For daily labours may my hands be strong.  
Thy Sovereign ownership let me not wrong,  
Or that sweet love which cost my Lord so dear,  
Touch Thou my heart and tongue, mine eye  
and ear ;  
Let all this breathing frame to Thee belong.  
O may the leaves of Life's new volume shine  
With holy thoughts and deeds, like radiant  
flowers  
Meet for the Hand and Eye of Love Divine :  
So shall they vocal be, like vernal bowers,  
With songs of hope, the earnest and the sign  
Of that long Summer which will soon be ours."

THE REV. R. WILTON,  
*Rector of Londesborough.*

"Our life is but the passing of a day."

N.

"Will the New Year bring sleeping—  
Quiet release ?  
Father most tender,  
We can surrender  
All to Thy keeping,  
Grant us Thy peace."

AUTHOR OF COPSLEY ANNALS.

January 3.

CROSSED PURPOSES.

“What does it mean when our honest plans for doing good are frustrated? It is God beating down our plans to leave room for carrying out His. Was some cherished scheme for doing good rudely dashed down? In that case ask yourself has no other opportunity been given you? Even now we are bearing the daily cross. Wait awhile.

“Then shall we be such thorough optimists as to say, ‘Whatever is, is best’? In the sense of trying to do better still? No. In the sense of neglecting honest effort? No. In the sense of leaving all in God’s hands? Yes. In the sense of seeing Christ’s cross in every crossed purpose, in every bitter trial? Again and again, Yes. Let us look at them as really *crossed* purposes, shadowed with the shadow of His Cross.”

FROM THOUGHTS ON CHRIST’S LIFE.

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January 4.

THE WELCOME TO OUR HOME.

“ How beautiful the burst of holy light !  
How beautiful the day that has no night !  
Open, ye everlasting gates, I pray —  
Waiting, but yearning—for that perfect day.  
Hark to these Alleluias ! ‘ Hail ! all hail ! ’  
Shall they be echoed by a sob and wail ?  
Friends ‘ gone before,’ these are your happy  
voices,  
The old sweet sounds : my very soul rejoices !  
Ah ! through the mists the great white throne  
I see,  
And now a saint in Glory beckons me.  
Is death a foe to dread ? the death who giveth  
Life—the unburdened Life that ever liveth ? ”

S. C. HALL.

“ Christ, Who says ‘ Come,’ will say ‘ Welcome.’ ”

N.

“ We shall be dearly welcome to Him to  
Whom we are going.”

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January 5.

**THE MOTHER'S PAGE.**

To a mother. "Go on in the blessing of God's grace ; go on and be of good cheer, go on to counteract the evil tendency, to pluck out the weed, to sow the good seed, to foster the springing grain—the blessing is promised, and will come." "There is usually a visible proportion between the well-directed labour of His people, done in faith, and the results of that labour."

**CHRISTIAN TREASURY.**

"Are you anxious about your children ? Say, '*He* trusted them to *me*; *I* trust them to *Him*.'"

"There is nothing that interests you that is too little to confide to your God in the solitude of closet prayer."

BOYD.

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January 6.

**THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.**

“The place where you lose self will be that where you find your Saviour.”

**THE BISHOP OF ALÈT.**

“Bearing about the dying of Christ. It is not that we ought to be, or that we can be, always directly thinking of Christ’s death ; *that* is impossible—we must think of many a worldly matter, and think intently too, or we shall do little good in this life ; but it should always be latent in our hearts, it should, almost unnoticed, colour all our views and doings.”

**BOYD.**

“Whenever you find imagination devising excuses for the neglect, or careless performance, of duty, you are falling into temptation.”

**CHRISTIAN TREASURY.**

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January 7.

**GOD'S CARE.**

"Kindness that hath failed me never,  
Love that baffles all my fears ;  
Hoping thus, and trusting ever,  
Will I spend life's waning years."

"Yes—for He performeth *all* things for me.  
Why then should I be 'careful to answer in this  
matter' which is so disquieting me, when *He*  
is so careful for me ? Rather 'under the shadow  
of Thy wings will I make my refuge, until these  
calamities be overpast.'"

"Can He have taught me to trust in His  
Name :  
And thus far have brought me, to put me  
to shame ?"

"We often come off better than we expect,  
and always better than we deserve."

**GREEN.**

January 8.

NATURAL SEQUENCES.

"Each man's life is a plan of God. We may thwart the plan, and by so doing bring evils and pains upon ourselves; but these, too, come not at random. They proceed from God as the inevitable results, or in other phrase, the natural recompenses, of having gone against His law and will."

DR. STORY.

"Oh, if men and women did but know the future that they lay up for themselves according as their acts shall be!—the remorse or the peace."

FROM "WITHIN THE MAZE."

"Degrade not thy work by thy working."

N.

January 9.

OUR LIFE JOURNEY.

"Having come to know His Name you will trust in Him on the great life journey. . . . We will entrust ourselves to Him, to be by Him guided, governed, and kept for ever. We will say to Him, 'we commit ourselves unto Thee.' . . . It is only as we thus trust ourselves to God that the true spiritual life can grow within us. 'Be it unto you according to your faith' is the principle laid down by Christ, and always true of all spiritual life ; the life of the Spirit grows according to the proportion of faith."

DR. STORY.

"Judge not God's love by providences, but by promises."

WILCOX.

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January 10.

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

"I must take care not only that what I do shall be a good thing, but that it shall be the best thing that is at that time within my power."

"Never despair—it is the importunity of zeal which accomplishes its object ; and if that object be among the 'possibles,' with such a feeling at work it will soon be among the actuals."

"It is wrong in the believer to live beneath his privileges."

CHRISTIAN TREASURY.

"Would you be always doubting a tried earthly benefactor? Then why doubt Christ's care? 'Is this thy kindness to thy *Friend*?'"

January 11.

THE PILGRIM'S REST.

"Yesterday was the 'better birthday' of my ——. She died at half-past one a.m. gently and peacefully, her hands clasped in prayer. And so one more weary traveller has gone *home*, to the traveller's *rest*; no more tossing on the rough waves of this troublesome world. God grant to us, who are left behind for a little season, a glad reunion in the golden city."

FROM AN UNPUBLISHED LETTER.

"There is an indescribable peace underlying all the sorrow of bereavement. Surely none will raise so sweet an anthem of eternal praise as those who have been taught in the bitter school of suffering."

H. B. C.

January 12.

NEVERTHELESS.

“ ‘ Nevertheless ’ is a noble word,  
‘ Nevertheless ’ my trust is ;  
‘ Nevertheless ’ shall still be heard,  
E’en if my place in dust is.

“ ‘ Nevertheless ’ will I be still,  
Still in God abiding,  
‘ Nevertheless ’ I’ll wait His will,  
Trust my Father’s guiding.

“ ‘ Nevertheless,’ though sorrow press,  
‘ Nevertheless ’ He will bless  
Every right endeavour ;  
He will leave me *never*.”

*Abridged from the CHRISTIAN TREASURY.*

“ Those things which we dread seldom come ;  
let the duty of the hour be all our care.”

CHRISTIAN TREASURY.

January 13.

**THOUGHTS FOR THE ANXIOUS.**

"To arrive at a right conclusion in any difficulty, weigh as comprehensively as possible the circumstances in which you stand; for Providence is the will of God. The right determination will most likely be arrived at in a negative form."

**VAUGHAN'S REMAINS.**

"If the tempter come, take refuge under the cross. Say to yourself in moments of temptation, 'One thing I am resolved upon, that if I perish, I will perish *trusting*.' Will God do what He has never yet done, reject a believing prayer? Shall I go down shipwrecked in the great deep, holding fast to Christ? Verily No. A thousand times No!"

January 14.

THOUGHTS FOR THE TEMPTED.

"Say to the tempter, 'I dare trust Christ, but I dare not parley with temptation.' Then fill the mind with present duty. Do *nothing* on which you cannot ask God's blessing, and in which you cannot glorify Him."

"Christ is mine ; therefore my cares are His, my future is absolutely safe in His blessed keeping. In everything He will care for me ; He is '*a present* Saviour' to help in present need, small or great."

"Every day pray yourself out of your own keeping into Christ's."

"Leave events, mind duties."

J. BICKERSTETH.

**January 15.**

**ON YIELDING TO ANXIETY.**

“I am Christ’s; therefore my faculties are His. Let me use them fully, heartily, for Him ; guarding against whatever would injure them, *e.g.*, needless hurry and worry, and giving way to care and unbelief. If I waver between trust and distrust I am sure to give way to anxiety, and to find Satan at the end of it.”

“If you take your own cares upon yourself, you load yourself with an unnecessary burden. The Mighty One waits to help you.”

**COLES.**

“Ebenezer”—“Jehovah-Jireh.”

“The very hairs of your head are all numbered.”

**MATT. x. 30.**

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January 16.

PEACE.

“ There is a season of calm weather :  
Though inland far we be,  
Our souls have sight of that immortal sea ;  
Can in a moment travel thither,  
And see the children playing on the shore,  
And hear the mighty waters rolling evermore.”

WORDSWORTH.

“ Alone, yet not alone ; wave after wave  
Making wild music in an ocean cave ;  
Thought upon thought within our spirit  
surge,  
To bless or scourge.

“ When Christ across the tempest of our will,  
Walketh in grandeur, saying, ‘ Peace, be  
still ! ’  
Then shall the surging cares within us cease,  
And we find peace.”

E. H.

**January 17.**

**THE SUFFERER'S PAGE.**

**"God never wounds with both Hands, for  
He ever reserves *one* with which to bind up  
and to heal."**

**"Every cross hath its inscription, *i.e.* the  
name of the person for whom it was shaped ;  
it was intended for those shoulders upon which  
it is laid, and will adapt itself to them."**

**TRENCH.**

**"You have proved His care, His faithfulness,  
a thousand times ; and of the anxiety that is  
harassing you now He says, 'What is that to  
thee ? Follow thou Me ; trust, simply *trust* ;  
thou hast no cause to fight in this battle.'**

**"God gives earth her dew, clouds their  
drops, ocean its pearls, and saints their tears."**

**N.**

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January 18.

A SAFE TEST.

"It is just possible that a thing may be wrong respecting which conscience is silent ; but nothing which conscience denounces can be right. Let its first protest stop all argument."

"Do not meet doubts on their own ground ; simply *rely* on God's word. Consider every thought that weakens that reliance a shaft from the enemy's quiver. Do you meet your Saviour's smile when you take up such a thought for consideration, or when you resolutely reject it ? This is a safe test, and it is well to remember the old maxim, 'Do not *touch* pitch.'"

"Nothing done is ever done with."

N.

January 19.

ON TORMENTING THOUGHTS.

Coleridge said of a friend who was haunted by thoughts of sin and blasphemy, "Allston should say to himself—'Nothing is me but my *will*—these thoughts therefore that force themselves on my mind are no part of *me*, and there can be no guilt in them.' If he will make a strong effort to become indifferent to their recurrence they will either cease, or cease to trouble him." This plan effectually answered.

"Old Unbelief's business since the days of Adam has been to lie concerning God, and to tell feeble Christians that to trust God's promise of strength and success is to lean on a broken staff. *Try it*, and fear nothing."

CHRISTIAN TREASURY.

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January 20.

HOW TO MEET TROUBLE.

"When a trial presents itself as an evil which we cannot escape, we have only to turn it round, and see that it is a duty which we *can* successfully perform. Turn your attention from the trial to the corresponding duty."

CHRISTIAN OBSERVER.

"*Rest* this case, whatever it be, just *rest* it on Jesus. Pillow your aching head and weary heart there."

E. S. BIRKS.

"The secret of true peace is not to *reason*, but simply to *believe*, and obey God's commands as given in the Bible." "Your Saviour will teach you, and bring you right and safe at last, I am sure of that."

M. A. C.

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January 21.

**THE GUIDING HAND.**

"Wherever guidance is honestly and simply sought, it is certainly given, but our discernment of it depends upon the measure in which we are walking in the light. One indulged sin so clouds the sky that to see what God is doing is impossible."

"How difficult it is practically to remember that the Christian has only to do with the present moment, 'day by day.' The child of God must learn that his Heavenly Father maintains his cause in this wise: 'The thing of a day in his day, as the matter shall require' (1 Kings viii. 59, marg ref.)."

ADELAIDE NEWTON.

"More bright waves than billowy ones break on the sands of time."

N.

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January 22.

GOD'S COVENANT.

"‘My grace is sufficient for thee.’ This promise embraces the whole of life, every detail of every circumstance; the ‘covenant ordered in all things and sure’ comprehends each one of them. The whole must include all its parts, even the minutest.”

“Do not *take up* Satan’s fiery darts; as the shield of faith repels them and they fall, there let them lie. *Settle* it in your heart that God will help you; there is great beauty in the expression, ‘The soul *reposing* in assured belief.’ ‘In quietness and in confidence shall be your *strength*’ (*Isaiah xxx. 15*).”

“No suffering need be *only* suffering.”

N.

**January 23.**

**TRUST IN GOD.**

“Everything depends on our confidence in the Hand which is leading us. How safe we are, though blind and utterly unable to see our way through the crowd of harassing events surrounding us.”

**ADELAIDE NEWTON.**

“That is not trust which leaves you care-worn and perplexed; trust bids you go on your way with joy. Say of this or that misgiving, ‘Christ hath discharged me of all that care; shall I take it back again out of His keeping into mine?’”

“Those who by faith see the invisible God, and the fair City, make no account of present losses and crosses.”

**RUTHERFORD.**

January 24.

THE LAMBS OF CHRIST.

“They were gathered early, earth’s young and fair,

Time cannot touch them, nor woe, nor care ;  
Safe in the harbour of endless rest  
The babes are cradled on Jesus’ breast.

“From silken couches and beds of down,  
By the dusky ways of the crowded town,  
By hill, and valley, and moorland bleak,  
Have the angels travelled those babes to seek.

“The lambs of Christ ; by the founts and rills,  
O’er the height of the everlasting hills,  
They follow with joy the Bridegroom’s train.  
If ye love, can ye wish them back again ?”

“The glories of Paradise must seem brighter  
to babes than to adults—they must burst upon  
the soul with such unexpected radiance.”

MARION W.

**January 25.**

**LIFE'S CHANGES.**

“‘Dum loquimur, tempus fugit.’ In the midst of the hurries and changes of this unsettled state, we glide along swiftly towards an unchangeable world, and shall soon have as little connection with the scenes we are now passing through, as we have with what happened before the flood.”

**NEWTON’s “CARDIPHONIA.”**

“A sea before the throne is spread ; its pure,  
still glass  
Pictures all earth scenes as they pass.  
We, on its shore, share, in the bosom of our  
rest,  
God’s knowledge, and are blest.”

“Saints work out their crowns, and God  
crowns their work.”

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January 26.

LIFE'S DISCIPLINE.

"The school of Christ is a school of discipline. The pupil of Christ will remember that he has given himself into the Hands of his Master to be taught and disciplined for eternity. There is no discipline in the New Testament, unless it be those three bitter but wholesome questions to Peter, so severe as that delay of Christ in coming to Martha and Mary in their sorrow; it seems all the more hard to bear when they had shown such a genuine and childlike trust in His love—when they had abstained from all importunity: yet this hard discipline is in one sense the highest tribute to their faith. A general assigns to his trustiest troops the hardest places."

THE REV. W. BOYD CARPENTER.

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**January 27.**

**THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.**

“When I find myself angry, or whenever any other evil temper arises in my mind, immediately I go to my Redeemer, and, confessing my sins, I give myself up to be managed by Him. This is the way I have taken to get the mastery of my passions.”

**MR. CLARKE OF CHESHAM BOIS,**  
*18th Century.*

“O Henry, pray, pray, pray ; be ceaseless and importunate in prayer. You have but one thing to do ; do it with all your might.”

*The elder VENN'S DYING  
ADMONITION to His NEPHEW.*

“I entered the year through white gates ; I may leave it by a green pathway.”

N.

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January 28.

TRUST IN GOD.

“‘God is love;’ that makes me happy. I rejoice that God reigns, that He reigns over all, over me, over my crosses, my comforts, my family, my friends ; my senses, my mental powers, my designs, my words, my conduct ; that He is God over all, blessed for ever.”

MRS. PIERCE.

“We have in the Gospel a full and unchangeable right to trust, as lost sinners, in the Almighty Saviour, for all our salvation.”

COLQUHOUN.

“Let us be hearty and of good courage therefore, and thoroughly comfort ourselves in the Lord.”

BISHOP RIDLEY,  
*16th Century.*

**January 29.**

**G O D ' S C A R E.**

"In God's dealings with His children it very often happens that signal blessing and deliverance come just when they are needed most, but expected least. Many a time the perplexity was unravelled, the cloud was dispersed, the falling stroke was withheld, the loss was compensated a hundred-fold."

"The great step towards trusting all to God as your Father, is to be fully persuaded that God *is* your Father."

FROM "GRAVE THOUGHTS," BOYD.

"Cast all your cares on God ; *that anchor holds.*"

TENNYSON (ENOCH ARDEN).

"More than Christ I can neither wish, nor pray, nor desire for you. We know not the half of what we love, when we love Him."

RUTHERFORD.

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January 30.

O U R   H O M E.

“I love yon pale blue sky ; it is the floor  
Of that glad Home where I shall shortly be ;  
A Home from which I shall go out no more,  
From toil, and grief, and vanity set free.

“I gaze upon yon everlasting arch,  
Up which the bright stars wander as they  
shine,  
And as I mark them in their nightly march  
I think how soon that journey shall be mine.

“Yon silver drift of dewy cloud, far up  
In the still heaven—through you my path-  
way lies,  
Yon rugged mountain peak, how soon your  
top  
Shall I behold beneath me, as I rise !

“Not many more of life’s slow-pacing hours  
Shaded with sorrow’s melancholy hue ;  
Then what a glad ascending shall be ours,  
Then what a pathway up yon starry blue ! ”

BONAR.

January 31.

IN MEMORIAM.

"General 'Stonewall' Jackson in his restless sleep seemed attempting to speak, and at length said audibly, 'Let us pass over the river, and rest under the shade of the trees.' These were the last words he uttered."

A.D. 1863.

"St. Chrysostom, having received the sacrament, concluded with his favourite doxology, 'Glory be to God for all things that happen, Amen,' then gently stretched himself out and died."

A.D. 407.

"Suarez looked up at the very last, saying, as if in some gratified surprise, 'I never thought it was so sweet to die.'"

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February 1.

P R A Y E R.

"Nothing will avail without prayer ; pray whether you *can* or *no*. When you are cheerful, when you are heavy-hearted, *pray*—with many or few words, or none at all. You will surely find an answer of peace. A promise prayed over in faith will bring down the blessing promised ; it has, it does, it will, avail much ; *try*, and I am sure you will say 'probatum est.'"

WESLEY.

"More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

TENNYSON.

"The soul roots upward."

AIDS TO PRAYER.

"The Heart of Jesus is the only Home for wounded spirits."

N.

**February 2.**

**PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE.**

“ The way is dark, my Father ! Cloud on  
cloud  
Is gathering thickly o'er my head ;  
The thunders roar above me. See, I stand  
Like one bewildered ! Father, take my hand,  
And through the gloom  
Lead safely home  
Thy child.

“ The day goes fast, my Father, and the night  
Is closing darkly on my faithless sight.  
The path is rough, my Father ! Many a thorn  
Amid the gloom my weary feet hath torn,  
Yet from the night  
Lead up to light  
Thy child.

“ The way is long, my Father, and my soul  
Longs for the rest and quiet of the goal ;  
While yet I journey through this weary land  
Keep me from wandering ! Father, take my  
hand,  
Quickly and straight  
Lead to Heaven's gate  
Thy child.”

H. N. C. *Abridged.*

February 3.

THE ANSWER.

“The way is dark, My child ! but leads to light.  
I would not always have thee walk by sight ;  
My dealings now thou canst not understand,  
I meant it so ; but I will take thy hand,  
And through the gloom  
Lead safely home  
My child.

“The day goes fast, My child, but is the night  
Darker to Me than day ? In Me is light.  
The path is rough, but thou shalt know how  
sweet,  
How fair the home, for weary pilgrims meet,  
And safe and blest  
With Me shalt rest,  
My child.

“The way is long, My child, but it shall be  
Not one step longer than is best for thee.  
And thou shalt know at last, when thou shalt  
stand  
Safe at the goal, how I did take thy hand,  
And quick and straight  
Lead to Heaven’s gate  
My child.”

H. N. C. *Abridged.*

February 4.

UNCONSCIOUS INFLUENCE.

"Easier far were it to follow and to forecast the pathway of a single drop of water, borne down along the current of a rapid stream, than the pathway of one single spirit, dropped amid that vortex of agencies to which here on earth it is subjected ; pressed in upon, on this side and on that, impelled now hitherward, now thitherward, borne along on that great tide which is setting on towards the shoreless sea. But let each unit of that mighty mass realise the compass and immense extent of that moulding power and pressure which it individually exerts, and shall continue throughout all time to exert, upon every other unit with which it comes even temporarily into contact ; with what solemnity does this invest the simple fact of our existence. 'None of us liveth to himself, no man dieth to himself.' To live such a life as ours, to die such a death as ours, how sacred a thing it is !"

DR. HANNA, *Edinburgh.*

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February 5.

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

"Making every day happy. When you rise in the morning, resolve to make the day a happy one to a fellow-creature. It is easily done—a left-off garment to the man who needs it; a kind word to the sorrowful; an encouraging expression to the striving."

SYDNEY SMITH.

"Say not, 'this calling and vocation to which God has appointed me is too small and insignificant for me.' God's will is the best calling, and to be faithful to it is the worthiest. God often places great blessings in little things."

FROM THE GERMAN.

"Divine Providence can qualify a man for anything."

GOULBURN.

February 6.

LIVING UNTO CHRIST.

"To live unto Christ is to choose Him as our Lord and Master, willingly taking on His yoke, dutifully bowing to His authority, diligently doing His will. To live unto Christ is to clasp Him with the firm grasp of an undying affection to the heart, and take Him as our companion, brother, friend, consoler, ever to be with us, ever to be by our side, our light in darkness, our strength in weakness, our guide in difficulties, our protector in perils, our shield in conflict, our food when a-hungered, our drink when athirst, our hiding-place, our rock, our refuge, the strength of our hearts, and our portion for ever." "The Christian dies, and all his sins and sorrows, cares and troubles, trials and temptations are buried in the grave ; they sink into a deeper tomb, they go down into that fathomless grave from which there shall be no resurrection ; but *he* in dying lives again."

DR. HANNA.

February 7.

GOD'S PROVIDENCE.

"How often it happens that God is carrying on parallel lines of events, which we cannot see to be connected until they are brought in contact. Whilst our minds are being exercised about any special thing ; whilst we are doubting in ourselves what it can mean, or what is to be done, God is getting everything ready in another channel, and at the right moment He brings the two together, and we see it all clearly. Let this comfort us while we are doubting."

ADELAIDE NEWTON.

"Trace a connection between your God and your blessing ; God loves a quick return for His blessings." "He is overhead."

POWER.

"The things that are really for thee gravitate to thee."

EMERSON.

February 8.

**TO BEREAVED PARENTS.**

“What gratitude you must feel that you have both been spared to your dear boy during his brief day of life—and how you must look forward to your reunion; when there will be nothing to mar his heaven or yours; but that bud of heaven, noticed by every one in his countenance, will bloom for ever.”

**THE REV. D. BLELLOCH.**

“Though you can minister to him no more on earth, you will feel how far better it is for him to be taken home by the loving and tender Shepherd, to whom this lamb of His fold has been dear. The suffering and shadow of the dimmed life here are past, and through a Saviour’s love an ever increasing blessedness before him.”

**C. M. D.**

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February 9.

PRAYER.

"No prayer is lost; prayer is lasting and living; every prayer is *indented* round the throne of God, and when God looks around He sees on all sides the prayers of His children."

THE REV. E. BICKERSTETH.

"Prayer is *everything*, for God answers prayer. Infinite toil would not enable you to sweep away a mist, but by ascending a little you may often look over it altogether. We wrestle fiercely with an evil habit which would have no hold upon us if we ascend into a higher atmosphere. You may climb to any height by prayer; farther up than ever eye hath seen, or dream hath followed, or heart untaught by grace, unexercised in prayer, can conceive. Everything is possible, every enemy and evil conquerable, by the Word of God and prayer."

CHEEVER.



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February 10.

**GOOD THINGS TO COME.**

"Every blessing may become either a weight or a wing; the latter is their true mission. And it is a delightful view which we may take of every blessing that it comes to prepare the way for others, comes to give us fitness, being improved, for the reception of still greater blessings. Each is a link in a chain which God is willing to make interminable if we will not break it by our own perversity; but too much loved blessings must be cut loose."

**PURITAN RECORDER.**

"Why do we toil ourselves in gathering sticks for our nest, when to-morrow we shall be gone out of it?"

**CHRISTIAN TREASURY.**

"There is sure treasure only where Christ is the Treasurer."

N.

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February 11.

THOUGHTS OF PEACE.

“‘I shall be satisfied’ *then*. And what *till* then? Till then He says to me, ‘My tired child, lean on Me. I will lead, support, and cheer thee. I will provide.’” “Turn each pang into a prayer for the strong help of your Master; for wisdom, for direction in the use of the best possible *means*. He will bless them; faint not, nor be thou weary. Thank Him, trust Him.” “Take thankfully every joy, or joyous thought He sends thee; each has its lesson, its mission; and thy Father, when He sends it, knows thy need of it better than thou dost. He says, ‘Take this gladness, enjoy it, be thankful, gladden others, but *rest* only in Me.’”

“Thy God, thy Saviour, knows thy voice, hears thy cry, and will assuredly answer. He will not only be gracious, but *very* gracious.”

DR. HAWKER.

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February 12.

THE INVALID'S PAGE.

“I know not if or dark or bright  
Shall be my lot.  
If that wherein my hopes delight  
Be best or not.

“It may be mine to drag for years  
Toil's heavy chain.  
Or day and night my meat be tears,  
On bed of pain.

“Dear faces may surround my hearth  
With smiles and glee;  
Or I may dwell alone, and mirth  
Be strange to me.

“My bark is wafted from the strand  
By breath Divine;  
And on the helm there rests a Hand  
Other than mine.

“One Who has known in storms to sail  
I have on board.  
Above the raging of the gale  
I have my Lord.

“He holds me: when the billows smite  
I shall not fall.  
If sharp 'tis short, if long 'tis light,  
He tempers all.

“Safe to the land, safe to the land,  
The end is this.  
And then with Him go hand in hand,  
Far into bliss.”

*Written by DEAN ALFORD,  
shortly before his Death.*

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February 13.

DETACHED THOUGHTS.

"The heart does not comprehend like the reason, but it comprehends as well, if not better."

VINET.

"We cannot foresee truly; we can only imagine something that *may* occur; and these imaginations are always wrong, if not as to the event, yet as to the degree in which the event will affect us."

FROM "FRIENDS IN COUNCIL."

"Those years of anticipated care and toil may, after all, be spent in Heaven's own rest."

E. S. B.\*

"Be not weary, for you have all eternity to rest in."

ARNAULD.

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\* The devoted young mother who penned this in the prime and vigour of life, was soon after suddenly removed to "Heaven's own rest."

February 14.

HOW TO MEET TRIAL.

"Foxe records that four of the Marian martyrs having been starved to death in prison, a fifth, their companion, wrote: 'We write not these our letters to that intent we might not afford to be famished for the Lord Jesus' sake.' O my soul! canst not thou 'afford' to bear this or that care, or loss, or conflict, for His dear sake too?"

"O what rare mercies lie often hid under dire Providences! One minute sooner than God's time would not be His people's mercy."

FLEMING, 17th Century.

"It is a great duty not to let one cloud, if it be a dark one, shadow your whole horizon."

C. M.

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February 15.

JEHOVAH JIREH.

"The word 'impossible' should be blotted from the believer's language in regard to all that God has made duty, and 'I will try' should be used in its stead. Were the trial made in faith it would undoubtedly succeed." "My Father knows. Lean on His arm, trust His care, rely on His help, confide in His love. Under *all* circumstances He will support, guide, and comfort, and supply all your need."

CHRISTIAN TREASURY.

"Thou knowest, Christian, that thou art at thy Heavenly Father's finding. Preserve thy experiences of past mercies, and thy hope will grow stronger for the future."

GURNALL.

"A mustard seed of faith will remove mountains of difficulties."

J. B. W.

**February 16.**

**G O F O R W A R D.**

“Hold fast to the present; every position, every moment of life, is of unspeakable importance, as the representation of a whole eternity. Take courage, advance in perfect faith; mercies you do not dream of now will be strewn around your footsteps. You will hear voices from the everlasting hills, and the sound as of the waving of angels' wings around you.”

**FROM “RAYS OF SUNLIGHT.”**

“Leave it all with Jesus,  
Day by day.  
Faith can firmly trust Him,  
Come what may.”

**FROM “BIRDS’ NEST STORIES.”**

“He who only knows the morrow,  
Can for thee its burden bear.”

**F. R. HAVERGAL.**

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February 17.

DETACHED THOUGHTS.

"Every son of man who would attain the true end of his being, must be baptised with fire."

ROBERTSON.

"The way through the Red Sea was safe enough for Israel, but not for Pharaoh ; he had no business to go that way, it was a private road that Jehovah had opened for His own family." "I have a dread of dying without full possession of my faculties ; but the vessel is not less safe when the passengers are asleep."

CHRISTMAS EVANS.

"The privilege of sudden death : at one moment duty, and the next glory. It is like the opening of a door—at one step they are within the charmed circle of everlasting love."

FAMILY TREASURY.

February 18.

GOD OUR KEEPER.

"Whatever be thy temptation, whatever be thy trial, remember for thy comfort that thou art in good Hands. Thy Lord will not give the mastership of thee to another; be sure of that." "Our path is chosen by God to fit us for doing the particular work He designed for us, and no other path could do so well. A little patient endurance will bring us where we shall admire each step of the way. What privileged beings we are to be under His own Hand, His own training, and to *know* it."

FROM THE "SUNDAY AT HOME."

"Quarrel not with God's unfinished Proviciencies."

FAMILY TREASURY.

"Be still, leave events, mind duties."

J. BICKERSTETH.

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February 19.

THOUGHTS FOR MOTHERS.

"In education, above all things endurance is needed, and is sure to produce its results. Patient endurance in teaching has accomplished more than even the most sanguine could have dared to hope."

POWER.

"Does thy beloved suffer? O then learn to kiss the rod for him as well as for thyself. God loves thy loved one; remember

'His is a *Father's* care.'

Use those 'God-given wings,' faith and prayer; He gives you for your help and joy so strong a hold on your children's affections, that, as the author of *John Halifax* beautifully says, 'there is in every good man's heart a sublime strength and purity of attachment which he never does feel, never can feel, for any woman on earth except his mother.'"



February 20.

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

“ Let us simply ask that our sphere and all in it be allotted by the One whose we are, and whom we wish to serve ; and let us go forth to fill it, saying determinately in the strength of the Holy Ghost ‘ I will.’ ” “ Faith and prayer are the key of Heaven’s treasure, and the lever of Heaven’s strength. The God whom we practically acknowledge in prayer will be sure to acknowledge us practically by giving us cause for praise. Cast yourself upon God, and He will accept the trust. Everything which is not sinful we may bring to God ; the minuteness of His love will always make Him condescend to the minuteness of our need. Looking at surrounding circumstances has often been the sore hurt of the children of God ; we must fix our eyes on the face of God, and He must discern prayer in those eyes, if we are to be safe.”

POWER.

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February 21.

THE USE OF SORROW.

"Evil" (afflictions and sorrows of all kinds) may only be 'good in the making.' "God's Providence brings good out of evil, and makes the darkest events in His servants' lives links in a chain of mercies." "'The fining-pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold.' Both are exposed to the heat of tribulation, but the furnace-glow, the hottest trial, is that which the gold undergoes. In some way that we cannot understand, God makes the seed sown in tears rise into the harvest of joy; not one cry of pain from a baby's lips is uttered in vain."

A. L. O. E.

"I suffered this for thee; what dost thou for Me?" Words written under a picture of the Crucifixion.



**February 22.**

**WAITING GOD'S TIME.**

“Providence is never so dark and cloudy but hope can see fair weather coming from the promise. When the Christian's affairs are most disconsolate he may soon meet with a blessed change. In one moment sick and sad, in the next well and glad; never to know more what tears and groans mean. Stay God's time till He comes according to His promise, and takes you off your suffering work, and be not hasty to shift yourselves out of trouble.”

“Hope assures the soul that while God stays the performance of one promise he shall have the absence thereof supplied with the presence of another; and this is enough to quiet the heart of any that understands himself.”

**GURNALL.**

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February 23.

AN EVENING THANKSGIVING.

“ I bless Thee, gracious Father, meekly kneeling  
Before Thee, while the daylight softly dies,  
In this calm hour mine inmost soul revealing  
To Thy most holy Eyes.

“ I bless Thee for the long day's labour ended,  
And for the strength that made my bur-  
dens light.

I praise Thee for the tender Hands extended  
Over my home to-night.

“ I bless Thee for the voice of consolation  
That speaks, in gentlest tones, of pardoned  
sin ;  
And bids me strive, through sorrow and  
temptation,  
My golden crown to win.

“ O for His sake whose love all love excelleth,  
Extend Thy care through all my nights  
and days,  
And, from the place wherein Thine Honour  
dwelleth,  
Hear and receive my praise.”

SARAH DOUDNEY.

February 24.

GLAD ANTICIPATIONS.

"Let us remember that there ought to be found in us now something like a presentiment of the future glory. If we are not conscious of God now, not able in any sense to come into personal contact with Him, how can we expect to be fit for that state in which our highest happiness will consist in closest and most intimate, but ineffable, communion with God?" "In the Christian there is an anticipation of what is coming. He is not altogether ignorant of his future; and he feels that he shall not be altogether a stranger there when he passes, after death, into Paradise."

THE REV. G. CALTHROP.

"Is it not the great comfort of earth that there is such a place as Heaven?"

BOYD'S "GRAVER THOUGHTS."

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February 25.

LIFE'S LESSONS FOR PARENTS.

"I am so sorry for your trial in parting with your child for so long. I think prayer is never more precious than when our children are away from us—the comfort is so great of bringing them hourly to Jesus." "It was a deep sorrow to me when the sweet little girl for whom we had so wished was laid in my arms, to find the seal of death already on her brow—but I think the great lesson to me is to be *satisfied* with God's will about it. I am well content to leave the future in my Father's Hands." "Our little one still remains in the same anxious state, a daily lesson of faith and submission to his parents; taught as perhaps nothing else can teach, by the sufferings of those we most intensely love. We know he is a lamb of Christ's fold, and the peculiar sweetness and patience he shows seems like the Shepherd's mark."

February 26.

DETACHED THOUGHTS.

"The Spirit of Truth is ever near and ever active in rightly regulating and calmly composing the minds of all who earnestly and constantly seek its help."

FROM THE RECORD.

"Temptations may trouble but cannot hurt, except their darts enter the will and leave a wound there, by drawing it to some consent and liking of them."

GURNALL.

"Would you touch a nettle without being stung by it? Take hold of it stoutly. Do the same by other annoyances, and hardly anything will annoy you." "What is a misfortune? Whatever separates us from God. What is a blessing? Every means of approximation to Him."

"We must get above second causes, or sink and be drowned."

PRIVATE THOUGHTS. ADAMS.

*18th Century.*

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February 27.

CARES AND PERPLEXITIES.

"Does care or fear harass you? Stay the mind on God. *Quiet* it. Do not parley for an instant with the misgiving or foreboding; to do so strengthens the fear, and weakens the mind's resisting power. Bring it to Jesus first of all, before you attempt to do anything with it. Does some past sorrow rise up and seem to cast a shadow over the future? Remember *God was in the past*, overruling all. From the cradle to the grave He keepeth thee. Hath *one* thing failed that you trusted Him with? Does not 'the covenant ordered in all things' include the perplexity which is disquieting you now? Count up your Ebenezers. Difficulties fly before those who come to trust under His wings. He covers His trembling ones 'with His feathers,' and they are *safe*."



February 28.

IN MEMORIAM.

"I have no pain, sickness, or sorrow, nor a wish to live or die ; all is well. Yes, Heaven already is begun, everlasting life is won, is won, is won. I die a safe, easy, happy death. Thou, my God, art present, I feel Thou art ; precious Jesus ! Glory, glory be to God."

PAWSON.

"You can indeed say 'It is well with the child' now that he is taken home where you will go to him. O for faith to pierce within the veil, and think of the Amen of his life being finished, and the Alleluia begun. You are blessed in having part of yourself in Heaven, a link of the family there."

MRS. A. T.

"Home ! Heaven ! My Home ! "

*The last words of MR. J. H. CROSS,  
of the Religious Tract Society.*

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February 29 (Leap Year).

A THOUGHT FOR THE ANNIVERSARY THAT  
RETURNS ONLY SEVENTEEN OR EIGHTEEN  
TIMES IN THE ALLOTTED "THREESCORE  
YEARS AND TEN."

"What a day should this be for reviewing the past! the way that God has led us, His countless helps and mercies, and answers to prayer; and alas! our countless sins! Am I nearer my God, as well as nearer my grave, than on the last 29th of February? Is my home circle complete now as then, though so many homes have been made desolate or broken up? If so, what shall I render to Him for such goodness? Or has a wise loving Hand culled from my home garden its choicest flower, its most precious bud? Ah! then I must remember that *Jesus did it*, and placed it, I well know how tenderly, where His flowers never fade; and where it will be mine once more and for ever."



March 1.

COMING BACK.

"Disappointed! What right have I to be disappointed? Surely none. True, I thought I was nearly home; my little bark seemed drifting away so fast towards the bright side of the dark river. Oh! how my heart bounded to think that there was but a step between me and that land of life and light. Another breeze and I should be there. And lo! while I waited came the breeze, but it came from the Fatherland, and back again sped my poor bark to this misty shore, while the vision of Home faded from my view. But I hear my Father saying, 'I have further work for thee to do. I gave thee that glimpse of thy home to cheer and strengthen thee. At the right time, and when thou hast finished thy work, thou shalt behold My Face for ever.' Amen."

FROM THE "SUNDAY AT HOME."

(*Abridged.*)

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March 2.

THOUGHTS OF COMFORT.

"Every thought which *terminates* in sorrow springs from ignorance and imperfect faith. Whatever you may be feeling, *act*, and be sure that so long as you find nothing but gloom and perplexity in your thoughts, truth is partially hid from them." "For any of us who would win a glorious reward hereafter, there is not time to mourn over transient troubles ; the evils against which we must make head need the whole power of an undivided mind."

FROM THE AFTERNOON OF UNMARRIED LIFE.

"You have a generous Master, trust Him generously ; with *absolute confidence*."

"Who knows what works of mercy may be upon the thousand wheels of Providence ?"

GORDON.

**March 3.**

**OUR FATHER'S CARE.**

“ Give to the winds thy fears,  
    Hope, and be undismayed ;  
God hears thy sighs, and counts thy tears,  
    God shall lift up thy head.

“ Through waves, and clouds, and storms,  
    He gently clears thy way ;  
Wait thou His time, thy darkest night  
    Shall end in brightest day.

“ What though thou rulest not,  
    Yet Heaven, and earth, and hell  
Proclaim God sitteth on the throne,  
    And ruleth all things well.

“ Leave to His sovereign sway  
    To choose and to command,  
So shalt thou, wondering, own His way,  
    How wise, how strong His Hand.

“ Far, far above thy thought,  
    His counsel shall appear,  
When fully He the work hath wrought,  
    That caused thy needless fear.”

**FROM HYMNS FOR THE CHURCH ON EARTH.**

March 4.

F A I T H.

"When we *exercise* faith in Christ, that faith grows exceedingly. We have His fulness to rest upon, to fall back upon, to supply *all* the wants of our pilgrimage."

DR. HEWLETT.

"The child of God goes free from the pressure of all that concerns him, for it is laid over on God. If he use his advantage he is not racked with musing, 'Oh! what will become of this or that?' but goes on in the strength of his God as he may; offers up his poor but sincere endeavours to God, and is sure of one thing, 'all shall be well.'"

LEIGHTON.

"I will set my heart to higher work than barking at the Hand which chastens me."

KINGSLEY.



March 5.

TRIAL.

“When there comes some special day of trial, there shall come with it special strength. God will undergird the ship when quicksands are at hand.”

“When God’s dealings with us are apparently unbountiful, we are kept from some evil, stopped upon a road at the end of which is a precipice ; or God is preparing to deal far more bountifully with us than we should have done with ourselves ; happy is that man who has faith enough to praise while the issue is being worked out.”  
“There go the pall-like clouds with their golden fringes and their silver linings, telling us that there is wealth attached even to our darkest sorrows.”

POWER.

“How shall we land at the Haven of Rest, if we are not tossed upon the sea of trouble ?”

GOODWIN (THOMAS),  
*17th Century.*

March 6.

USES OF SUFFERING.

"There is a great want about all Christians who have not *suffered*. Some flowers must be broken or bruised before they emit any fragrance."

M<sup>c</sup> CHEYNE.

"God's ichor fills the hearts that bleed,  
The best fruit loads the broken bough ;  
I saw not with mine eyes so full of tears,  
But heard Faith's low sweet singing in the  
night,  
And, groping through the darkness, touched  
God's Hand."

GERALD MASSEY.

"Understand thou by afflictions, when God is the Husbandman, and afflictions the seed, there must come a good crop of it. The best grain shall have the sorest trial and hardest pressure."

SIBBES.

March 7.

**NERVOUS FEARS.**

“ Nervous fears should be guarded against—

“ I.—As dishonouring to God.

“ II.—As hurtful to the soul, which cannot prosper in an atmosphere of depressing anxiety.

“ III.—As hurtful to the mind, and to health.

“ IV.—As a great bar to usefulness ; to that hearty, happy, *working* spirit, which gives its *best* to God and His service.

“ V.—As a serious hindrance to prayer.

“ VI.—As an injury to the temper ; which, fretted by the inward fever, yields to the first irritation.

“ VII.—As the occasion of endless sins of omission, negligences, and lost opportunities.

“ VIII.—As inflicting a pang on conscience.

“ IX.—As strengthening an evil habit, which, by God’s help, *can* and *must* be broken ere we can enjoy Christ’s legacy of peace.

Prayer, and faith, and loving work for others, are mighty agencies—*try them.*”

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March 8.

LEAVING ALL TO GOD.

"How good it is for us that things so seldom fall out according to our short-sighted plannings; how many a man has lived to bless God that his own petty will had not been done; that nothing had happened to him as he expected or intended. Leave all in God's Hands; will He not make you strong enough for any sort of life He requires of you? There is a peace attainable even in this world, by a life, which, if ever so sad and difficult, has done the best it could with the materials granted to it; has walked, so far as it could see, in its appointed course, and left the rewarding and the brightening of it solely in the hands of Him who gave it, who never gives anything in vain. Our weakness is often our best strength, and when we wholly relinquish a thing, it is many a time given back to us in double measure."

FROM "A LIFE FOR A LIFE."

March 9.

PEACE IN DEATH.

Mrs. Hannah More said, shortly before she "fell asleep," "Jesus is all in all! Happy are they who are expecting to be together in a better world! The thought of that world lifts the mind above itself. To go to Heaven! think what that is. To go to my Saviour, who died that I might live! O glorious grave! It is a glorious thing to die." To some one who spoke of her good deeds she replied, "Talk not so vainly; I utterly cast them from me, and fall low at the foot of the Cross."

Elizabeth Fry, on the morning of her last day on earth, said: "Pray for me; it is a strife, but I am safe." Soon after, in a low distinct voice, she said: "O my dear Lord, help and keep Thy servant." These were her last words on earth.

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March 10.

**CHRIST'S ALL-SUFFICIENCY.**

"Christ is pledged to be with us always, not only upon great and tragical occasions; not only when the proto-martyr saw the King of Heaven risen from His throne, 'standing' to welcome the vanguard of the noble army of martyrs; not only then, but always, among obscure people, and to help in little needs. Wisdom in perplexity, escape in danger, strength in temptation, companionship in loneliness, patience in tribulation, joy in the furnace of anguish, and life in the hour of death,—all are pledged by Him who cannot lie, nor exaggerate, nor hold back."

THE REV. G. CHADWICK.

"No more depends upon circumstances than the Lord chooses. He can bring us our happiness by storm as by sunshine, by failure as by success."

C. D. BELL.



March 11.

**THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS.**

"We bring up our children by the action of our minds upon theirs."

A. L. O. E.

"We are often tempted to think that the young must remain what they are; but often the whole man is transformed by the atmosphere of teachers and companions."

DEAN STANLEY.

"If we wait and hope, things are brought about in a way that we could not have fancied."

GOOD WORDS.

"Your child is safe with Jesus, while we are tossed a little longer on the waves of a troublesome world. Meantime we wait, a waiting of faith, hope, labour, and love."

C. & M. W.

"Blessed hope! after the tumults of life are over, to meet again, no wanderer lost, a family in heaven!"

ABERCROMBIE.

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March 12.

GOD'S HELP.

"Mercies come fullest when longest waited for. If we look on such as have quietly waited by hope for God's coming to their help, we shall find they ever speed well. There flows in a fulness of benediction with an enjoyment reaped in God's full time, which is lost for want of patience to wait."

"A gracious soul may pray in faith from his past experience, and expect a satisfactory answer to that prayer wherein former mercies are his plea for what he wants at present. Save the remembrance of a mercy as hope-seed to strengthen thee to wait on God for another mercy, and farther help in a needful time."

GURNALL.

"The love of God in Christ is not barren kindness; it is a love that reaches from everlasting to everlasting. In all the miseries of the world one beam of this loving-kindness of the Lord will scatter all."

SIBBES.

March 13.

TRUST IN GOD.

"Take up no self-imposed crosses ; these you bear *alone*. Fear exaggerates, distorts ; look *above* it, straight up to Christ. Mistrust *yourself* as much as you will, but not the Lord Jesus. One believing prayer, one word of quiet trust in your Heavenly Father, whose goodness has so often 'hired you to believe,' and then the heart's tempest is stilled, and there is a hush of peace. True, the trial still remains, but the inner voice whispers, 'Prove Me now herewith.' Arise up from your heaviness, be no more sad ; go forth and glorify Him in heart and life. Brooding over trouble is a snare of Satan to make us sluggish in duty ; our wisdom is to cast ourselves upon God, and to believe that we shall be helped. 'Blessed is she that believeth.'"

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March 14.

GOD'S PROVIDENCE.

"Inquire whether thou canst not find that thy God hath done greater matters for thee than this about which thou hast now so many disquieting fears. Hath He not brightened a darker cloud than this? He that hath laid up a portion in Heaven for thee, will lay out, surely, all the expenses thou needest in thy way thither."

GURNALL.

"This is a world in which circumstances are always changing, and God interferes for ever."

FROM 'SALEM CHAPEL.'

The Rev. F. W. Farrar writes: "An Arab thus addressed me, 'I repeat each morning the customary Arab prayer, which is, "I put myself in God's charge." Then, having done the best I can, I have no further anxiety; I *know* that I am safe.' "

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**March 15.**

**BE HAPPY.**

“ Many a questioning, many a fear,  
Many a doubt hath its quieting here.  
Moment by moment, let down from heaven,  
Time, opportunity, guidance are given.  
Fear not to-morrows, Child of the King,  
Trust them with Jesus ; do the next thing.

“ Comings and goings no turmoil need bring,  
His all thy future ; do the next thing.  
Do it relianty, casting all care ;  
Leave all resultings, do it with prayer.  
Strong in His faithfulness, safe 'neath His wing,  
Still, as He beckons thee, do the next thing.”

*Abridged from “OUR OWN FIRESIDE.”*

“ Work on, and ere long you too shall bring  
to the great Master a life of which He shall say,  
‘ Well done.’ ”

**FROM “HESTER’S SACRIFICE.”**

“ Get joy in God, and rejoice in Him always ;  
this opens the heart.”

**GOODWIN, 17th Century.**

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March 16.

H E A V E N.

"Sorrow enters our doors now, but let us remember that she is only a guest come to tarry with us for the night-time of life. Her elder sister, Joy, will greet us when the morning breaks over the shore of God's fair land. She will take us by the hand and set us in our Father's Home, where the many mansions are ; and we shall be glad indeed, for no sorrow shall be there, no sighing, no tears ; and our loved ones will be there, and He who loved us and gave Himself for us, who was dead and is now alive, will be there ; and from that sunny Home we shall go out no more."

THE REV. W. BOYD CARPENTER.

"Crosses are ladders to Heaven."

PROVERB.

March 17.

THOUGHTS FOR THE HARASSED.

“Bring to Jesus every care, and fear, and burden, and pressure, real or even imagined. In *all* circumstances He can help, and provide, and overrule, and bless ; He knows how to provide for all cases. Circumstances and difficulties seem important to the faithless heart ; they are nothing to Him who saves by many or by few. Be not ‘careful to answer’ in the matter now perplexing you. He *will* deliver you ; only trust Him, and you shall glorify Him. Press on in His strength to an *assured victory*. Harassed one, Christ *will* bring you safely home, you *know* He will. Why then dishonour Him by these faithless fears ? Pray much for the hidden manna, the God-given strength. God’s grace is ever greater than your need.”

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March 18.

**CHRIST ALL AND IN ALL.**

"Jesus Christ, in the fellowship of His sufferings, and in the power of His resurrection, is the great loadstone whereby the heart is drawn from the world and attracted to God. There is no knowledge of God, or of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, there is no true sorrow for sin, no pardon, no peace with God, but by Jesus Christ. The day speaks of Him—He is 'the Light of the world'; the night recalls Him—He is 'the Star of Jacob, the bright and morning Star;' Seed-time tells of Him—'the Sower that went forth to sow;' Harvest tells of Him—the Reaper upon the cloud; our houses speak of Him—He is 'the Door,' the Shelter from storms and tempests; our tables speak of Him—He is the Bread of Life, the Living Water, Wine, Milk, Marrow and Fatness, Honey and the Honeycomb. His Name is the keynote of all creation, and of all Holy Scripture."

**EXTRACT FROM A SERMON.**

March 19.

**THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.**

“‘So run that ye may obtain.’ We must run in earnestness, in faith, in patience, in temperance, in self-restraint, in certainty, and in fearless love.”

“Who but finds, when he withdraws to his closet at night, that since he left it in the morning to go forth into the world, his soul has received some stain from its contact, that there is some fault committed, some danger fallen into, some fall to mourn, and that he needs daily to have recourse to ‘the fountain opened’?”

“A word of sympathy in a season of sorrow, how precious may it be! A word to touch the consciences or to soothe the hearts of those whom we meet, though but for a passing hour, how deeply may it be felt! And with those whose daily intercourse we enjoy, how many are the seasons in which we may do them good!”

DR. BAYLEE.

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March 20.

PRESENT DUTY.

"Let him who gropes painfully in darkness, or uncertain light, and prays vehemently that the dawn may ripen unto day, lay this precept well to heart which to me was of invaluable service, 'Do the duty which lies *nearest* thee, which thou knowest to be a duty; thy second duty will already have become clearer.'"

CARLYLE'S "SARTOR RESARTUS."

"Faith is the starting-point of obedience; but start immediately, work towards light by yielding a present obedience up to the present light which you possess; stir up all the gift which is now in you. This is the way to have the gift enlarged; the graces of holiness will both brighten and multiply upon you."

DR. CHALMERS.

"It is absolutely certain that there is no single waking moment of our lives that we can afford to lose."

GOULBURN.

**March 21.**

**F A I T H.**

"The time spent in seeking God's blessing upon our work will be as profitably spent as the time employed in actual labour. Our task will sit the lighter upon mind and body if we cast the care of it upon our God, and do not try to bear it all ourselves. The daily bread and the daily strength will come with the day that is to need them. As a general rule, the great cause of sleeplessness, of those weary hours of wakefulness, anxiety, and misery, is want of faith in God. It is because we are not able to trust ourselves and all that concerns us to His sure Providence and His thoughtful care—because you *will* plan too far ahead. The amount of peace and quiet that we shall experience in this turbulent and troublesome world, will be in exact proportion to the strength and reality of our trust in God."

BOYD, "GRAVER THOUGHTS OF A  
COUNTRY PARSON."

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March 22.

P R A Y E R.

“Fear not, doubt not, pray unceasing.  
Oh ! the wondrous power of prayer !  
Prayer, the living link that bindeth  
Human souls to God above.  
Though no answer seem responsive,  
Take to Him thy daily care ;  
Though no answer seem vouchsafed,  
Still, by prayer, His mercy prove.  
Praying, trusting, trusting, praying,  
Cling to the eternal Love.”

MARY HOWITT.

“I have the highest value for prayer ; so many things unexpectedly work round, and causes of fear turn into causes of thankfulness, when we have reason to believe that prayer has been offered respecting them.”

J. BICKERSTETH.

“Prayer and pains,” the Missionary Elliott’s secret of universal success, “will, with God’s blessing, do everything.”



March 23.

THE POST-MERIDIAN OF LIFE.

"We are on the downward slopes which lead into that valley that bounds the journey, through which we pass to the River on the other side of which is *Home*."

"This earthly garment is but mine, not *me*. We wait not for the darkness but the dawn. Shall we not anticipate with joy *our* coming spring, which will be we know not where, except that it will be with God? Shall we not trust ourselves to Him, O ye of little faith! God has work, and strength, and comfort for all times and seasons; but not yet has it entered into the heart of man what God has prepared for them that love Him."

FROM THE "CHRISTIAN WORLD MAGAZINE."

"We should be exceedingly comforted in this, that our battle is so short, our victory so sure, and our reward so infinite and eternal."

SIBBES.

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March 24.

THOUGHTS FOR AN INVALID.

"Our poor sufferer is much the same. 'The family badge' of all God's children, Bonar says, is trial in one form or other ; but if our path is the same so I 'trust will be the Home to which it leads us.'"

"Our beloved one said to her medical attendant this morning, 'I am longing to depart ; how soon do you think it will be ?' 'I do not know that you are going to die,' he replied ; 'it is the last trial of Christian patience and resignation, and perhaps the hardest.' Though hard, it was very short ; four days later 'the Master came and called for her.'"

"Our father's mind is kept in perfect peace, and when able to think or speak he is full of praise, 'rejoicing in a found salvation.'"

"The battered vessel rides noblest into port."

N.

March 25.

GOD'S PROVIDENCE.

"It has been said by an able writer, 'An ingenious web of probabilities is the surest screen a wise man can place between himself and the truth;' but happily it is no mere 'probability' that tells us that God's loving Providence will be over every event in our lives, great or small; and that the same Providence will watch over all our dear ones."

J. E. C.

"Hope and quietness, the quiet of 'a weaned child,' are a compound of wonderful efficacy in the cure of diseases, bodily as well as mental."

CAROLINE FRY.

"When the shiver of anxiety comes over you, resolutely resolve not to brood over it; fill the mind with duties."

MRS. STOWE.

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March 28.

WORK FOR CHRIST.

"The Christian may be in his own circle 'the almoner of blessings infinite.' May this be our prayerful aim, to be comforters and succourers of many, and considerate for all. When perplexing thoughts and cares would call us off from duty, Christ says to us, 'What is that to thee? Follow thou Me. My seal is on thy brow, and shall I fail My child, My own? Am I wont to do so?' Surely our life's history answers 'No.' But listen, the Master speaks again; 'Go forth, then, to My work, in My strength, and thou shalt be a blessing, for I will bless thee, yea and thou *shalt* be blessed.'

"It is mine to glorify God both by inward calm and by outward profession. He may well wait who waiteth for the Lord."

EDERSHEIM.

March 27.

PERSEVERANCE.

"All difficulties are to be overcome. There are few difficulties that hold out against real attacks ; they fly, like the visible horizon, before those who advance. A passionate desire and unwearied will, can, *Deo juvante*, perform impossibilities, or what seem to be such to the cold and the feeble. If we do but go on, some unseen path will open upon the hills."

"God used a pebble in David's hand to lay low Goliath. You do not know that He will not use *you* for some equally important purpose. Try it. Take hold of all handles of usefulness that offer themselves to your reach. His heartiest approvals wait for His hardest workers. Be a brother to all men for Christ's sake, and the blessing of many ready to perish shall be yours here ; and *afterward*—what words can utter !"

CHRISTIAN TREASURY.

March 28.

QUIETING THE HEART.

"Be willing to want what God is not willing to give. Is not God willing to give thee thy desire of this or that? O then be thou willing to want that thing; we many times stand in our own light. Never were saints their own carvers but before they had done they cut their own fingers. Do but take care of all that belongs to God, and God will take care of all that belongs to *you*."

DYER'S "GOLDEN CHAIN."

"Consider that it is a blessed thing to be patient; that a quietness of spirit hath a certain reward; that still there is infinite truth and reality in the promises of God, that thou art still in the care of God, in the condition of a son."

BISHOP TAYLOR. (*Abridged.*)

March 29.

WAIT GOD'S TIME.

"All attempts to hurry God's dealings are sure to be productive of bad results. Let us remember that God gives liberal interest for every year that He keeps our prayers unanswered. The richest blessings are often those which take longest in coming; impatience is almost always accompanied by loss."

POWER.

"Bear to be uncomfortable for a time, and you will soon learn that no emotion, unless wilfully nursed into strength, continues long to subjugate the mind."

FROM "THE REAL AND THE BEAU IDEAL."

"It is wonderful how few evils are remediless if you fairly face them, and honestly try to remove them."

BOYD'S "RECREATIONS OF A COUNTRY PARSON."

March 30.

FROM A PRAYER OF SAINT AUGUSTINE'S.

"O Father Almighty; O Lord Jesus, the Son of the Father ; O Holy Spirit who proceedest from the Father and the Son, keep, we pray Thee, these creatures of Thy Hand, who put their trust in Thee, and take refuge in Thy mercy. Guard us with Thy mercy and Thy power, now and at all times, and so keep us from evil both in body and soul that our enemy may find no way of approach to hurt us.

"To Thee the lowly in heart, to Thee the souls of the righteous, to Thee angels and archangels fall down in continual adoration. Help us, O Lord God, our Life and our Strength, to praise and celebrate Thee, although we be unworthy. Grant us the grace of Thy blessed Spirit that we may continue steadfast in the faith ; that so Thou mayest bring us finally to everlasting salvation, through the merits of our Lord and Saviour. Amen."

March 31.

IN MEMORIAM.

"I felt too deeply with you in your sorrow in his suffering life, not to sympathise tenderly in your sorrowful joy in his entrance upon eternal life. His father's pathetic petition for him at your family prayer, which has ever since rung in my heart, 'May Thy Fatherly Hand ever be over him,' has now had its full accomplishment."

E. H.

"May He bring us all at last, after all the buffettings with winds and waves are past, to the sweet haven of rest. The thought reminds me of an inscription I read on a friend's tombstone; which, after recording long sicknesses and many bereavements, closes thus, 'So He bringeth them to the haven where they would be.' "

J. E. C.

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April 1.

CARE CAST ON GOD.

"When we feel our spirit crushed and bowed down beneath a weight of care and sorrow, our hopes blighted, our tenderness made sore, our affections trodden down, all these are burdens which we are invited to cast upon Him who 'hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.' When we feel our hearts cold, unwarmed with heavenly love, unanimated with heavenly zeal, O then just cast that too on Him who suffered for our sins."

DR. BAYLEE.

"How often do we needlessly distress ourselves by carrying yesterday's stick *over again*; and by carrying to-morrow's stick before the time."

JOHN NEWTON.

"I have committed to Him my soul, my body, my whole salvation."

SIBBES.

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April 2.

SHEET ANCHORS.

"I have been able to commit my soul to Him who says, 'him that cometh unto Me, I will in no wise cast out;' to Him 'who is able to save to the uttermost.' These texts have been two sheet anchors, by which my soul has weathered many a storm, when otherwise hope would have failed. 'In no wise' takes in all characters. 'The uttermost' goes many a league beyond all difficulties. I recommend these anchors as sure and steadfast."

THE REV. JOHN NEWTON, *aged 79.*

"This is my sheet anchor," said a dying young woman to the Rev. W. Jay, 'him that cometh unto Me, I will in no wise cast out.' I know I do come to Him. I expect He will be as good as His word."

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April 3.

LEAVING ALL WITH JESUS.

"I leave it all with Jesus,  
For He knows  
How to steal the bitter  
From life's woes ;  
How to gild the tear-drop  
With His smile ;  
Make the desert garden  
Bloom awhile.  
When my weakness leaneth  
On His might,  
All seems light.

"I leave it all with Jesus  
Day by day ;  
Faith can firmly trust Him,  
Come what may.  
Hope has dropped her anchor,  
Found her rest,  
In the calm sure haven  
Of His breast.  
Love esteems it Heaven  
To abide  
At His side.

"Yes, leave it all with Jesus,  
Drooping soul !  
Tell not half thy story,  
But the whole.  
Worlds on worlds are hanging  
On His Hand,  
Life and death are waiting  
His command ;  
Yet His tender bosom  
Makes thee room,  
Oh ! come Home !"

April 4.

TRUST IN CHRIST.

"Christ has promised that if you will but love and trust Him, and commit all confidingly into His Hand, He will make all things work together for your good. Dismiss, then, all undue anxiety as to the future. '*Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him.*' If the Father has put all His great things into Christ's Hand, may not you put all your little things into that Hand also?"

DR. HANNA.

"Keep close to Jesus; go to Him for all you need; lean upon Him. There is a fulness in Christ laid up for you that the highest angel in Heaven cannot fathom. Tell Him all that is in your heart, lay your case before Him as if He did not already know it: this is the sweet simplicity of faith that Jesus loves."

MRS. WINSLOW.

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April 5.

A PRAYER.

"Lord, let me never be betrayed by myself, or any violent accident, or importunate temptation : let me never be sold for the vile price of temporal gain, or transient pleasure, or a pleasant dream ; but since Thou hast bought me with a price, Lord save me.

"And in the day when Thou bindest up Thy jewels, remember Lord that *I cost Thee as dear as any*, and therefore cast me not into the portion of Judas. Let my body, soul, and spirit be washed in Thy blood, and pass from hence, pure and sanctified, into the society of Thy saints, in rest, and hereafter in glory, receiving my part with them, and my lot in the inheritance to which Thou didst entitle me, O gracious Lord, and dearest Saviour Jesus ! Amen."

FROM BISHOP JEREMY TAYLOR'S  
"LIFE OF CHRIST."

April 6.

THOUGHTS FOR OUR LIFE-JOURNEY.

“Restless thoughts that fret and crave,  
Slumber in my Saviour’s grave.  
He who made me careth well,  
In His peace I soon shall dwell.  
And in Heaven how calm my rest,  
On my loving Saviour’s breast.”

*Altered from WINKLER IN “LYRA GERMANICA.”*

“In a calm that knows no troubling and no pain,  
In a light that knows no shadow and no stain,  
Behind the Veil.”

HELEN K. WILSON.

“Make a journey every day to three mountains. Go to Sinai, and see your sins ; go to Calvary, and behold the Lamb of God ; go to Zion, and view the Heavenly City.”

DR. MARSH.

“We are not lodged in a castle, but in an inn where we are but guests.”

HENRY SMITH, *called the Silver-Tongued Preacher, a Puritan Divine,*  
*16th Century.*

April 7.

EASTER MORNING.

"He said unto her 'Mary.' With one cry,  
And in one moment, she was at His Feet.  
Oh, to her desolate, thirsting soul how sweet  
The calling ! as to those in days gone by  
His voice on the dark waters, 'It is I.'  
O great good Shepherd ! so He came to meet  
The sheep that cried to find Him—so to greet  
Her for whose need He was unseen so nigh.  
He knows His sheep, and calls them all by  
name ;  
They hear not others, but His voice they  
know.  
She heard and knew the calling sweet and low,  
And to His Feet in reverent rapture came.  
O my great Master ! thus and evermore  
Thee would I seek and find, love and adore."

STONE.

"The soul that seeks Him Christ has found.  
The highest adoration is perfect love."

N.

April 8.

KINDNESS.

"Be kind. Above all things be kind. Kindness is the one thing through which we can the most resemble God and disarm men. Kindness in mutual relations is the principal charm of life. A mind which occupies itself with others, which seeks to avoid all that can cause any one uneasiness ; which is never silent through temper or through pride ; this mind is that of a Christian, and it is one which makes the delight of all that have to do with it. Kind and gentle thoughts towards others imprint themselves on the countenance, and in time give it an impress which attracts all hearts."

LACORDAIRE.

"It does not do to be all angles in a round world."

N.

April 9.

A MOTHER'S UNDYING INFLUENCE.

"We sometimes find a home of which the depth is more felt than the surface; a consciousness of power and tenderness comes over us beyond all that we see; a strange, mysterious sweetness silently testifying that all that has been still breathes in all that is: past elements of life blending in present influence, around those still left in the broken circle whose brightest gems may be set in Heaven."

MRS. CHARLESWORTH.

"If ever you are disheartened in your work, and there are times when one needs special faith not to be, let it cheer you, praying mother, to feel that you are not sowing in vain. 'Know ye who hath set your part?' Take fast hold of His promise 'I will help thee.'"

**April 10.**

**DEATH AN ANGEL-VISITANT.**

"The story has often been told of Dr. Chalmers' last Sabbath on earth ; his joining in worship at the kirk, his walk home, his lonely walk in the garden, where his voice was heard exclaiming, 'My Father, O my Heavenly Father ;' his cheery conversation in the evening, his tender 'good night,' his gentle warning, 'We must be early in the morning.' Let them be astir as early as they will, the angels were stirring earlier ; and when the sun looked into the room, the old man was found dead in his bed, reclining against his pillow, looking serene and happy. It was the morning of May 31st, 1847."

**THE REV. W. BOYD CARPENTER.**

"Heaven's light is behind the shadow of a good man's death."

**N.**

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April 11.

PRAYER AND TRUST.

"We must learn to pray for 'everything,' to be 'careful for nothing,' and to realise that in no other way can we obtain daily strength, wisdom, and success. We implore the Divine guidance upon our way, but we do not specify times and seasons, circumstances, sorrows, idols, fears, names, cares, and reasons ; and thus we have so few answers to prayer, so many heavy and unrelieved burdens, often made up of trifles, like rocks of microscopic shells. The unbelieving thought, how dishonouring to Him who loves the trusting, unquestioning spirit of the little child."

FROM "WORK, OR PLENTY TO DO."

"God often teaches us how safely, in all the circumstances of life, *He* may be *trusted*."

J. BICKERSTETH.

April 12.

**TENDERNESS TOWARDS OTHERS.**

“O never say a careless word  
    Hath not the power to pain !  
The shaft may ope some hidden wound  
    That closes not again.  
Weigh well those light-winged messengers;  
    God marked thy heedless word,  
And with it too the falling tear,  
    The heart-pang that it stirred.”

**ANNA SHIPTON.**

“Always say a kind word if you can ; it  
may come in with singular opportuneness.”

**FRIENDS IN COUNCIL.**

“The true secret of doing real and lasting  
good amongst men and children, is to carry  
within the spirit of tenderness and sympathy.”

**DR. WATSON.**

April 13.

GOD'S PLAN FOR US.

"When you have entered upon the day observe narrowly the quarter in which His finger points, and be true to that direction; there lies thy prepared task. There are the good works, not which thou hast devised, but which God has before ordained that thou shouldest walk in them. Break not away for an instant from the guidance of His Providence. The real remedy for the uneasiness of mind which is caused by interruptions, is this. View them as part of God's loving and wise plan for your day, and try to make out His meaning in sending them. Let your own arrangement for the day be subject to modification by God's plan for you, as that plan shall unfold itself hour by hour to your apprehension."

GOULBURN.

April 14.

GOING TO OUR HOME.

"How transitory are earthly things! One generation passeth away, but another is taking its place; so that except in a few desolate hearts there seems no vacancy. There is a grand and blessed gathering above, around the Saviour, and there all is serene and abiding."

"O weary pilgrim! nearly home at last,  
Close upon Jordan's shore;  
What are your troubles now that they are past?  
What are your joys in store?  
Only keep closer yet beneath His Hand,  
Who brings you to the borders of His land.

"God, who through life hath fed you to this day,  
Defend you to the end;  
His living bread be still your staff and stay,  
His Angel still your Friend.  
Till daylight fades, and hours of evening fall,  
Till shadows cease, and God is all in all."

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April 15.

T R U T H.

"No truth can stand by itself for ever ; standing by itself it is indeed a truth, but not that higher and more complete thing which we know as Truth. This is the case in all branches of knowledge. A great living thinker has said that every truth carried to its extremest point ends in a contradiction. Truth is not a single thread, drawn out to its extremest length ; but a subtle web, woven of various truths acting upon and through one another, and forming together the grand fabric of truth. Soon after Our Saviour's ascension the tendency to snatch at half-truths showed itself in the Christian Church (see 1 Cor. i. 12, 13). It was man's nature to choose the truth as from Paul, from Cephas, or Apollos, breaking the wonderful continuity and completeness of the teaching of Christ Himself."

EVENING HOURS.



**April 16.**

**THE LESSON OF THE DEWDROP.**

"A dewdrop, falling on the ocean wave,  
Exclaimed, in fear, 'I perish in this grave ;'  
But, in a shell received, that drop of dew  
Unto a pearl of wondrous beauty grew ;  
And, happy now, the grace did magnify  
Which thrust it forth, as it had feared, to die.  
Until again, 'I perish quite,' it said,  
Torn by rude diver from its ocean bed.  
O unbelieving ! So it came to gleam  
Chief jewel in a monarch's diadem."

**ABP. TRENCH.**

"The file is rough, and the application of  
it harrowing to the soul, but all the more  
bright and lustrous will be the diamond, when,  
at length thoroughly polished, it shines forth  
in the royal crown of Emanuel."

**HEWITSON.**

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April 17.

**USES OF AFFLICITION.**

"Wonder not, Christians, that your tender Lord puts you to pain, and that your pains are so sharp and so many. 'Your Heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.' It is a mercy that He will chastise ; you may put your corrections among your mercies. His breakings of you are His blessings, His woundings are your cures ; and by your own, as by your Lord's stripes, you are healed."

**RICHARD ALLEINE.**

"The cross of Christ is the sweetest burden that ever I bare : it is such a burden as wings are to a bird, or as sails to a ship to carry me forward to my desired haven."

**RUTHERFORD.**

April 18.

**THOUGHTS OF COMFORT FOR THE BEREAVED.**

“ This anniversary must ever be accompanied by the tenderest recollections of her who was dearest to you on earth. What a joyful day it was to her! and even *you* would not have wished her to continue even another hour in that suffering tabernacle. The heavenly mansion was quite ready, and she too was fully meet and prepared to enter her glorious and eternal Home.

“ Our labouring thoughts try in vain to picture the inconceivable glories of the saints on high.

“ ‘ Thus much, and this is all we know,  
They are completely blest.  
Have done with sin, and care, and woe,  
And with their Saviour rest.’ ”

“ When God is reached, no wings are weary.”

N.

April 19.

PRESSING HEAVENWARD.

"It is asserted that the bird of Paradise always flies against the wind, as otherwise its beautiful but delicate plumage would be ruffled and spoiled. Those only are birds of Paradise, in a spiritual sense, who make good their way against the wind of worldliness, a wind always blowing in an opposite direction to that of Heaven."

THE REV. J. D. HULL.

"'So must I labour still,'  
All the day through ;  
Striving, with earnest will,  
Patient my place to fill,  
God's work to do.

"Longer the shadows grow,  
Night cometh on ;  
Low voices softly call,  
'Come, here is rest for all,  
Labour is done.'"

THE FIRESIDE.

April 20.

P R A Y E R.

"Hold fast by the faith, and remember what one of the best and most manly characters I ever knew gave as his experience with respect to prayer. He said, 'I am bound to acknowledge that I have always found that my prayers have been heard and answered. Not that I have in every instance, (though in almost every instance I have,) received what I asked for, nor do I expect or wish it. I always qualify my petitions by adding, 'provided what I ask is for my real good, and according to the will of my Lord.' With this qualification I feel at liberty to submit my wants and wishes to God, in small things as well as in great; and I am inclined to imagine there are no *little* things with Him.'"

FROM SIR T. FOWELL BUXTON'S LIFE.

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April 21.

REST IN GOD.

"Let us 'rest in the Lord,' rest in the great principles and processes of His government of the world, and patiently wait the issue. To 'fret' at the processes of life is to sacrifice the personal qualities they are intended to produce.

Above all, if a man does evil to secure good, he simply makes matters worse. He thrusts his ignorant evil expedients into the midst of God's processes; which is like thrusting an alien force into exquisitely adjusted machinery. Not only does it hinder it from working good, it often makes it destructive. 'Wait patiently for Him.' God will do it better than you can. Better for every good cause that it be left to suffer *from* evil-doing, than that it be rescued *by* evil-doing."

THE REV. H. ALLON.

April 22.

**FALLING AWAY.**

"There are few words that have so sad a sound, so sad a meaning, as these. 'They fall away' (Luke viii. 13). And from what? They fall away from all that is highest, noblest, purest in human life. They fall away from that which would have given a dignity to their every act, a meaning to their every word. They fall away from Him who is the great centre and source of life and blessedness. They fall away from companionships which were once so helpful, and from activities in which they once rejoiced. They fall away into sin, worldliness, insensibility. Does not the very thought of such a lapse make us tremble?"

**MORRIS.**

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April 28.

THE INVALID'S PAGE.

" Is your frail boat tossed and battered,  
With its sails all torn and wet,  
Crossing o'er a waste of waters  
Over which your sun has set ?  
To the shore, all calm and sunlit,  
Where no heart shall ache or sigh,  
Christ shall bear your shattered vessel  
Safely, surely, by-and-by.  
Are the eyelids very weary ?  
Does the tired head long for rest ?  
Rest is coming ; sweet, enduring,  
*Perfect* rest on Jesu's breast.  
' Yes,' faith whispers, '*rest is* coming,  
Rest *for ever*, by-and-by.' "

" When we meet above we shall congratulate  
one another, and say, ' It was *true* ; all things  
did work together for good.' Wait, be patient ;  
thou art in confusion—trust in Christ ; He will  
weather the storm for thee and in thee."

HULETT.

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April 24.

**ENCOURAGEMENTS TO FAITH.**

"Joshua left all to God (as to his portion in Canaan). He left all in God's Hands. What was the result? God accepted the trust, and rewarded it. This is exactly the way of the Lord. Extend help to others; He helps you in return. 'Give, and it shall be given to you.' Care for others, and He cares for you."

"**By-WAYS OF THE BIBLE,**" LEWIS.

"Suddenly, in the deep emergencies of life, some new interest, some friend, will appear; like the great Twin Brethren in the thick of the battle, vanishing perhaps when the fight is over, yet blessing him even in vanishing from his sight."

"What we have sown in life we shall reap in death; and they that sow in tears will reap in joy."

"**RAYS OF SUNLIGHT.**"

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April 25.

THE MASTER'S PRESENCE.

"The Master is come, and calleth for thee." Christ was evidently known in the family of Bethany as 'the Master.' He is the Master of death, the Master of sorrow, the Master of every sorrow that we can possibly have. It is one of His special offices to wipe away tears; and He will come in due season, and call His own, one by one, to the Eternal Home."

THE REV. A. BROWN.

"Christ passed through the valley of death; He 'tasted death for every man.' We only pass through the valley of the *shadow* of death. Archbishop Laud said on the scaffold, 'Lord, I am coming to Thee as fast as ever I can; it is only *umbra mortis*' (the *shadow* of death)."

THE REV. M. WOODWARD.

"To gem our Saviour's crown is to find our own."

N.

April 26.

**GOD'S TENDER CARE.**

"Words cannot describe the minuteness of that care with which we believe every life to be overlooked and guarded by Him who has all power in Heaven and in Earth. When a Christian towards the close of life looks back upon his pilgrimage as a whole, and in its parts, he can only say, 'God hath led me all these years, I see it now so plainly.'"

**DR. VAUGHAN.**

"'So He bringeth them to their desired haven.' 'So ;' that word, in all its unknown and diversified meanings, is in His Hand. 'I seem,' said Simeon, on his death-bed, 'to have nothing to do but to wait ; there is now nothing but peace, the sweetest peace.'"

**MACDUFF.**

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April 27.

M E M O R Y.

"Blessed be God for the wondrous faculty of memory. It is the golden thread that links all our mental gifts together. It is the record office of the mind, where facts of eternal value are preserved.

"The patriarch Jacob is a sample of an old man's heart vibrating under the touches of memory. Surely not with pleasure would Jacob note the bitter fruit of his misdeeds. Thus every man carries the past with him ; the lapse of years does not transform the character of the sin, nor are the fruits destroyed. He had memories of bereavements—Machpelah was a well-known spot to him ; 'there I buried Leah.' But Jacob had the remembrance of many mercies ; how sweetly does he recall the mercies of his entire life in the words, 'The God who fed me all my life long unto this day, the angel who redeemed me from all evil.'"

THE REV. J. H. HITCHENS.

April 28.

**THE POWER OF PRAYER.**

"Pray, pray, and tell me the thing that will not be granted to believing prayer. I am persuaded that there is no limit to what we might have, to what we might be enabled to do, of things desirable, good, and holy, if we had so much confidence in God as to enable us to expect them."

**FROM A SCOTCH DIVINE.**

"A man has a right to go up along the path of his own weakness, and say, 'I have done what I could; now, Lord, hear my prayer, and do for me what I cannot do for myself.' And if it is a thing that is needed, God will answer the prayer."

**"AIDS TO PRAYER."**

"By prayer the whole round earth is every way

Bound by gold chains about the Feet of God."

**TENNYSON.**

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April 29.

**OUR FATHER KNOWS.**

"The thought of a God of whose care and love we are assured, is the supreme, the only consolation of a man.

"In the greatest straits, in the most desolate solitudes, in the most arduous toils, in severest sufferings, in extremest distances, let him but keep hold of the great thought that the infinite Father sees, and knows, and controls all—sees *him*, knows the way he takes, leads him in love, counts the very hairs of his head, calculates the forces of his life, and knows their power to affect him, and he will be calm, and confident, and strong.

"It may be hard to trust ; it is much harder still not to trust.

"'God's mill grinds slowly.' God's moral processes take time for working out."

**THE REV. H. ALLON.**

**April 30.**

**IN MEMORIAM.**

Professor Anstice's last words to his pupils :—

"I have been deterred, perhaps, from entering into subjects of practical religion with you as fully as I should have done, partly by the fear of seeming to wish to appear better than I really was. Now that restraint is taken off; no fear of that kind can have any effect now—there is an authority in death.

"Look to Jesus ; on His cross alone rest all your hopes of salvation. Trust not to your own works, or to any merits of your own ; trust Him who taketh away the sins of the world.

"Manly conduct may do much, gentlemanly conduct may do much ; but these are all rotten foundations to build on ; it is only a humble trust in Jesus, our Saviour, our Intercessor, that can bring peace at the last.

"God bless my dear wife and her poor infant. God bless you all, I am sure He will."

He spoke no more, but sank into sleep ; to awake amid the brightness of "another morn than ours."

May 1.

PASTOR AND FLOCK.

THE LITTLE CHURCH.

"If I forget thee, O thou lowly shrine,  
Prefer thee not in Israel, let my voice  
Forget the power of song, no more rejoice  
With reverence in the faculty Divine.  
Thine am I by first love, for ever thine,  
Thine by a new-sent Deacon's hopes and fears,  
A Priest's first consecration : by prayers, tears,  
And travail known to God. And thou art  
mine  
By the true love of souls that cannot die:  
Of some yet on their journey, as of those  
Whose tired forms round thee here awhile  
repose,  
And wait the last Spring, and the open sky.  
Whose welcome, if I fail not by the way,  
I shall not miss on the new earth's May-day."

STONE.

"Oh, come with all things new !  
Sin ended, sorrow closed, His reign begun !  
O Master, Prince of Peace, I wait for Thee."

STONE.

May 2.

DAY BY DAY.

"Let a man say to himself 'I live all my mortal life by days. God has made all arrangements that I should live graciously to-day. He expects me to live so, He will help me to live so. He will be grieved and angry if I do not so live. I am just going out to live by grace through another day ; I may, I must—God helping me, I *will*.' "

VAUGHAN.

" All our day of life we strive and wrestle,  
Or we wander far, like silly sheep ;  
If we stray, our Shepherd still will seek us,  
All His own for ever He will keep.  
But, O joy ! to work on through the day-time,  
With the Home Light brightening, nearing  
fast ;  
And to know the fulness of its welcome,  
When the evening brings us home at last."

FROM THE " QUIVER."

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May 3.

. H E A V E N.

"We gather from many passages of Scripture that there will be an infinite variety of employments and occupations in Heaven—delights endless and various, as the flowers are here below.

"We may suppose with reason that talents improved and used to God's glory here, will be retained and developed immeasurably hereafter. Buds carefully tended and cultivated on earth in this life, will bloom in Heaven, and amaze us by their beauty, and be woven into our crown.

"But in the high noon of God's presence, we gather that there will be no need of other delights, although they will be provided—no need of any other sun and moon, though these will yet shine."

THE AUTHOR OF "THE HARVEST OF  
A QUIET EYE."

**May 4.**

**FIRST PRINCIPLES.**

“There can be no heart-service until the wayward affections have been brought back to their allegiance, no acceptable ministry of life or hand until the Spirit of the living God has set the mainspring right.”

**MRS. PENNEFATHER.**

“We none of us can calculate the consequences, if we once begin any course in which we are not able at its beginning, and at every step of it, to ask God’s grace and win God’s blessing.”

**DEAN ALFORD.**

“Let the sinner realise the presence of his long-slighted Saviour; let him cling to His feet, and there, with wrestling fervour, implore the gift of the Holy Spirit. The laws of matter will not more certainly operate than will his petition be granted.”

**“LEISURE HOUR.”**

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May 5.

NEARING HOME.

"The day will assuredly dawn for the Christian when he shall be enabled to take off his travel-worn shoes; when he shall enter into the home to which he has been making his way through so many weary stages, and from which there shall be no going forth, even for ever and ever."

THE REV. C. W. BARDSLEY.

"Work goes with us to the very portals of eternity—and then comes *rest*. Memory, so painful, so smiting, so yearning here, will be full of rest in its rejoicing and grateful thoughts of all that, dark on earth, is radiant in Heaven."

FROM "WORK, OR PLENTY TO DO."

"Amid earth's discords, try to catch some echo of Heaven's glorious song. Hush! listen! you may hear it, perhaps to-morrow:

"Loud as from numbers without number, sweet  
As from blest voices uttering joy!"

MILTON.

**May 6.**

**ON LOAD-LINES.**

"A load-line is a line painted on a vessel to show how far it is safe to load her. A very significant and remarkable text of Holy Scripture (1 Cor. x. 13) assures us, and almost explains to us, that our various load-lines will always ride above the waters (if only a hair's breadth of space now and then intervenes), till we ourselves let them dip. It is never our Maker who puts an overweight upon us, as we sail life's swelling sea."

**THE REV. S. B. JAMES.**

"Our Heavenly Father knows exactly how much we can each bear."

**MARION W.**

"He can take off the heavy weights."

**"AIDS TO PRAYER."**

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May 7.

THE MOTHER'S PAGE.

OUR LITTLE ONES IN THE FATHER'S HOUSE.

"Do you know this portrait?" a friend asked.

"It is your little Ernst," I cried.

"Yes; still *my* Ernst, but not as you knew him. He is gone from us; he listens now to those eternal melodies which ear hath not heard; he sees those wondrous beauties which eye hath not seen. He has passed for ever from the pain of this world to the perfect life which has no end."

ST. PAUL'S MAGAZINE.

"The baby wept,

The mother took it from the nurse's arms,  
And soothed its tears, and stilled its vain  
alarms,

And baby slept.

"Again it wept,

And now God took it from the mother's arms,  
From present ills, and unknown future harms,  
And baby slept."

SIR WM. JONES.

"The Holy Lamb of God loves the little lambs."

N.



May 8.

THE MORNING OF THE RESURRECTION.

"In the dead of night, while all nature is hushed, and you feel surrounded with what is the nearest semblance of the silence of that grave in which you *must* lie; then listen as if you heard booming in the distance, from the eternal shore, the harbinger, when 'the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God, and the dead in Christ shall rise first.' As this deep diapason fills the vault of heaven, have you a hope that the *early* summons will be to you?"

THE REV. JOSEPH SORTAIN.

"Through all eternity who will again seek for the souls that are lost?"

N.

K

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May 9.

BESETTING SINS.

"True repentance worketh indeed a general hatred of every false way, and suffereth not a man to allow himself in the smallest sin. Yet the severest exercise of that hatred is against the sins whereunto the conscience hath been most enslaved, and by which the name of God hath been most dishonoured. And as the besetting sin is usually the special bar and obstacle that keeps men from Christ, so when Christ has removed this obstacle, and gotten the throne in a man's heart, then the chief work of repentance is to keep this sin from gathering strength again ; and therefore repentance, as a special argument of sincerity, sets itself particularly against that sin. 'He that is begotten of God keepeth himself,' which he doth certainly with more vigilancy there where he is in most danger of being assaulted."

BISHOP REYNOLDS.

**May 10.**

**THOUGHTS FOR MOURNERS.**

“ Yes, our loved ones whom we buried in Earth’s  
dark and silent womb,  
They shall hear the trumpet sounding, calling  
all from out the tomb.

Not, then, with despairing sorrow do we mourn  
those gone before ;  
They are ours, and we shall clasp them, on  
the calm, eternal shore.

“ Sad indeed, beyond all sadness, if our human  
life’s bright stream  
In the sea of death had ending, flashed and  
vanished like a dream.

But the empty tomb assures us Christ has left  
that lowly bed,  
Is the first ripe sheaf of harvest, is the First-  
born from the dead.

“ Calmly, then, we’ll walk the valley, pass along  
the shadowed way ;

For, though gloom and darkness haunt it,  
leads it to a glorious Day.

Raise we, then, the joyous chorus ; this exultant  
song we sing :

Grave, where is thy boasted triumph, and O  
Death, where is thy sting ?

Hallelujah ! Amen.”

**CANON BELL.**

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May 11.

GROWING IN GRACE.

"The mind, which is the man, more certainly than the body is the map, (inasmuch as the body yields no consciousness of identity), goes on growing till near the end, and the soul grows still longer than the mind."

THE REV. S. B. JAMES.

"The Holy Spirit does not love imperfect workmanship. He must make His Temple like Himself. He must make the vessel in His Hands meet for the Master's use. Let Him have His own way with us and in us, and we shall see how quickly and how fully He will do His work."

BONAR.

"If a man be in Christ, the Ark, he may be frightened, he may be disturbed, he may apprehend danger, but he shall feel none."

CHRISTIAN TREASURY.

May 12.

CONTRASTED TRUTHS.

"The entire sovereignty of God over all His works is one indisputable truth ; man's freedom in his ways and choice, and responsibility for all his actions, is another. No man that ever lived can explain this; but all truth is consistent with itself, and separate truths with each other."

DR. SPENCER.

"The doctrine of the Divine sovereignty should, as to practice, be always applied to a thing past, not to anything to come. So it always is in Scripture. Men know the Divine determinations concerning events, only by the events themselves."

DR. LOWE.

"God is in all things, God is, in spite of all appearances, 'the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.'"

DR. CUMMING.

May 13.

"I AM WITH YOU ALWAY."—MATT. xxviii. 20.

"To those who only see the external side of a crushing stroke, it is appalling ; but if the Angel of God's presence is standing ready to strengthen the soul, and to read His dealings with His own voice, and to be the first to interpret them as love, and love alone, we feel no desire to ask any further question, but wait for a sure display of His supporting power.

"It must be terrible to meet such strokes *alone*; but lying at the feet of Him who sends them, and hearing the voice of His promise, louder than the voice of His Providence, there is nothing in them to impair a sense of security."

#### THE WAY HOME.

"Look forward, look upward. Christ's Eye is upon you ; His Heart is towards you. A few more severe trials, a few more staggering steps, and we are *there!*"

MRS. WINSLOW.



May 14.

HINTS FOR WIVES.

"To endeavour to the utmost to please those with whom we live is unquestionably a duty.

"Many a home has been made miserable, many a domestic tie has been broken by an habitual disregard of 'trifles.' Take care of these trifles, these minute fragments of domestic charity, and the great sum total of love and happiness will take care of itself.

"It is one of a wife's first duties to appear attractive in the eyes of her husband. He marries for the sake of the 'domus et *placens uxor*' (the home and *pleasing* wife).

"The woman who will not take the trouble to render herself personally attractive in her husband's eyes, has in all probability little or no desire to please him by any means."

NORTH BRITISH REVIEW.

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May 15.

OUR LIFE-WORK.

"If our work is that of Him that sent us, and not our own, we shall be continually committing it to Him, and not be dwelling on its ultimate issues. We should do it as those who have but *one day*, and know they must soon lay by their tools.

"Blessed be He who made His life human to make ours Divine !

"How important to remember that God, having set us in a certain position, endowed in a certain way, has His idea of and for us. We should try and ascertain what that idea is ; what is our Father's work, our place and purpose in the world between the eternities, the building and the builded.

"To *will* rather than to *wish* is the difference between strength and weakness ; so to mistake difficulties for impossibilities is the error of the weak. Here lies the difference between those who do something and those who do nothing."

VAUGHAN'S "REMAINS."



May 16.

WHAT REAL PRAYER IS.

“He had always and regularly prayed; but now he seemed to come so near to the Father in Heaven—to the infinite tenderness and pity.

“It was as if he were able to realise the personal goodness and love of God.

“It seemed as if heart came near to heart; his poor human sin-stained heart to the very heart of God.

“It seemed as if his deep love and yearning for his son enabled him to realise the still deeper, still more yearning, love of Him who said, ‘I have loved thee with an everlasting love.’”

“STEPPING STONES,” BY THE REV.  
F. ARNOLD.

“What the key is to the watch, that prayer is to our graces: it winds them up and sets them going.”

GURNALL.

May 17.

NOW AND AFTERWARD.

“Now, the sowing and the weeping,  
Working hard and waiting long ;  
Afterward, the golden reaping,  
Harvest home and grateful song.

“Now, the pruning, sharp, unsparing,  
Scattered blossom, bleeding shoot !  
Afterward, the plenteous bearing  
Of the Master’s pleasant fruit.

“Now, the long and toilsome duty,  
Stone by stone to carve and bring ;  
Afterward, the perfect beauty  
Of the palace of the King.

“Now, the tuning and the tension,  
Wailing minors, discord strong ;  
Afterward, the grand ascension  
Of the Alleluia song.

“Now, the training, strange and lowly,  
Unexplained and tedious now ;  
Afterward, the service holy,  
And the Master’s ‘Enter thou.’”

FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL.

**May 18.**

**HOLY SCRIPTURE.**

"The Bible has God for its Author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. It is all pure, all sincere, nothing too much, nothing wanting."

**JOHN LOCKE.**

"I have here sent you, good sister Catharine, a book [a Greek Testament with these lines written at the end of it], which, although it be not outwardly trimmed with gold, yet inwardly it is of more worth than precious stones; and if you with a good mind read it, and with an earnest mind propose to follow it, it shall bring you to an immortal and everlasting life. It shall teach you how to live, and how to die."

**LADY JANE GREY,** *at the age of eighteen,  
the night before her Execution.*

May 19.

#### QUIET RESTING-PLACES.

"All gracious processes are wrought in restful souls. It is when we sit in our tent door, at the cool of the day, that God communes with us.

"We are silent to our very selves that we may listen to Him. He has taken all things into His Hands ; He shall choose our inheritance for us.

"We cast our care upon Him ; we rest in Him ; the living heart of His love is better than all His gifts. The very God of peace fills us with Himself.

"It is the religion of life to believe these things. God is above us and near us, controlling, and guarding, and helping all who commit to Him their ways.

"The great eternal laws of being hold good. Good shall work good, evil shall work evil. Let us wait and trust."

DR. ALLON.

"Spare moments are the gold dust of existence."

THE FIRESIDE.

May 20.

**DETACHED THOUGHTS.**

“Amidst all rejoicings, the key-note of all religions, except the true one, was sadness over the vanity of all things human. Amidst all sufferings, the key-note of Christianity is joy and triumph. ‘If God be for us, who can be against us?’ ‘We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.’”

**FROM “GOOD WORDS.”**

“If God thinks fit to bottle His saints’ tears, they surely should not forget to book His mercies.”

**GURNALL.**

“An ounce of contentment is worth a pound of sadness to serve God with.”

**FULLER.**

“Many a darkened noon-day sees a bright sunset.”

**MRS. CHARLESWORTH.**

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May 21.

THOUGHTS FOR THE SAD AND WEARY.

"Unmixed prosperity is not a good thing. There is hidden virtue in pain and sorrow ; nay, it would seem that they are in some way necessary. Our Lord chose them for Himself, and for those dearest to Him whom He would most highly bless. Think of Solomon's Temple :

'By many a salutary stroke,  
By many a weary blow that broke  
Or polished, with a workman's skill ;  
The stones that form that glorious pile'

were 'fashioned before they came thither.' Lift up, then, the hands that hang down. Be cheered, O suffering ones ! till, with greater ones who have gone before you by the same rough road, you can even 'rejoice in tribulation.' Rest will be yours by-and-by. The kingdom of peace will come, and you shall see it. But it is not yet, it is not here."

F. C. WOODHOUSE.

May 22.

ON THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN.

"'The child is father of the man.' If so, we should be watchful of him, to surround him, from the first, with all the guards which prudence prompts and love supplies; to teach him, as he can receive it, the path of present duty, and the way of everlasting happiness; and, above all, to shield him with the perpetual panoply of prayer.

There is no such trust on earth as a young child, none such for difficulty, for sacredness, for importance.

If 'the child is father of the man' we should be hopeful of him. Who can tell what any child may be? There is the unconscious power of example, there is the omnipotence of prayer. Let the Hand of the Lord be with him, and what may he not be?"

BISHOP POTTER.

May 23.

THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW.

"We cannot imagine any situation, age, time, place, or manner, in which some have not died."

E. BICKERSTETH, 1808.

"Knowest thou not, O death, that thou didst devour the Lord Christ, but wert obliged to give Him back, and wert devoured of Him? So thou must leave me undevoured because I abide in Him, and live and suffer for His name's sake. Men may hunt me out of the world; *that* I care not for, but I shall not on that account abide in death. I shall live with my Lord Christ, since I know and believe that He liveth."

LUTHER, *quoted by* STIER.

"I feel afraid of a sudden death," said an aged Christian.

"If you were on a journey, would you rather come home by a very slow train, or an express?"

With a bright smile she answered, "I should choose the express."

**May 24.**

**THE UNKNOWN TO-MORROW.**

"Those events which we can in a measure foresee, hardly ever fall out just as we had expected; but a vigorous discharge of to-day's duty does reach out into future days; so we may be shaping a future of which we are not thinking for a moment.

"We compel every vanquished temptation to contribute towards the cost of the war; our resources grow ampler with every struggle. We do not know with what exact array the adversary will at some future time oppose us; but this we do know, that to-day's manhood will in some way nerve the arm that is to strike on that unknown to-morrow. Let us, therefore, endure the trials, and attempt the duties, of the present hour, as those who see their yet unborn to-morrows shut up within to-day, as the seeds within the seed-vessel."

**VAUGHAN'S "REMAINS."**

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May 25.

ON THE TRAINING OF CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS.

"Christ's soldiers are equipped and trained in the closet, when the door is shut, and the soul is alone with God.

"In the olive grove, and on the mountain side at midnight, was the strength won which witnessed a good confession before Pontius Pilate, and which spoiled principalities and powers, triumphing over them openly.

"Action, achievement, struggle, victory, the laurel and the crown, are offered by the Gospel to us all.

"The attack is certain ; the victory may be certain also ; and no blow well struck is unseen by the Dispenser of eternal praise."

THE REV. G. A. CHADWICK.

"To chance Heaven is to lose all chance of it."

N.



May 26.

“THE WHOLE FAMILY IN HEAVEN AND EARTH.”

“What makes a family? There must be ties of nature or adoption; there must be one father, one home, one set of laws, one bent of interests, one love binding all together. So in this great family of God; it is a widely scattered band of brothers and sisters. What then? Jesus is the central point of interest to all. Some have reached the Father’s Palace-home. Well for them! Some are still in this world’s schoolroom, learning hard lessons, undergoing often sharp training. Well for them also, it is *worth while*. The sharpness and hardness of pain and loss are worth bearing. Anything rather than miss our entrance by-and-by into the palace of the King, our Father in Heaven. And the Holy Spirit is a wise and loving Teacher.”

AGNES GIBERNE.

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May 27.

THE INVALID'S PAGE.

"I am a stranger here—  
No home, no rest I see ;  
Not all earth counts most dear  
Can win a sigh from me.  
I'm going Home.

"Jesus, Thy home is mine,  
And I Thy Father's child,  
With hopes and joys divine.  
The world's a dreary void,  
I'm going Home.

"Home ! Oh how soft and sweet  
It thrills upon the heart !  
Home, where the brethren meet,  
And never, never part.  
I'm going Home.

"Ah ! gently, gently lead  
Along the painful way ;  
Bid every word and deed,  
And every look, to say  
I'm going Home ! "

RYLE'S HYMNS.

May 28.

CONFIDENCE IN GOD.

"Confidence in God consists in a simple waiting upon Him, referring all to Him, knowing that He is the Disposer and Dispenser in all things whatsoever."

"The secret of the believer's confidence is a departure from earthly confidences, and a going out with the whole heart to God. If God be for us, we have eternity stamped upon every good."

*From a Sermon preached at Acton, A.D. 1846,  
by the REV. E. BICKERSTETH.*

"Attention to the duties of the day is like the manna when it descended fresh and grateful from above.

"Anxiety about the events of to-morrow resembles the same manna, when, distrustfully laid up, contrary to the Divine command, it bred worms and putrefied."

CHURCHMAN'S PENNY MAGAZINE.

May 29.

FROM A PRAYER OF ANSELM'S.

"O Lord Jesus, great is Thy goodness to them that seek Thee. Thou redeemest the captives; Thou art the Saviour of the lost, the strength of the weary, the freedom of the oppressed, the consolation of them that are cast down, the crown of the conquering, the reward and joy of Thy saints. O Holy Spirit, most bounteous source of all good, we humbly implore Thee that in those things wherein through our frailty we have failed to understand Thy truth, or have erred from Thy commandments, Thou wilt deign to enlighten us with Thy visitation, so that, being guided and corrected by Thee, and having attained to forgiveness through Thy help, whom in the dangerous sea of this life we have called to our aid, we may be brought without shipwreck to the haven of everlasting rest. Hear us, O Father most merciful, through Him who with Thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth for ever and ever. Amen."

May 30.

A YOUNG GIRL'S THOUGHTS THE NIGHT  
BEFORE HER MARTYRDOM.

“ Through dungeon bars  
I catch the glory of the milky way ;  
The vivid stars  
In golden groups above the circus stray.  
To-morrow ! ah, to-morrow, these poor eyes  
Shall look upon the lights of paradise.

“ The sullen roar  
Of beasts imprisoned near me I can hear,  
And more and more  
The sharp and cruel agony I fear ;  
But ah ! the lion's fury cannot rend  
My soul from my Beloved and my Friend.

“ I thank Thee, Lord,  
Now that I know Thee, for the scourge, the scorn,  
The beasts, the sword ;  
For I the shadow of Thy grief have borne,  
And that is honour : afterward comes rest.  
To-morrow, Saviour, I shall be Thy guest.

“ O blessed home,  
Now art thou nearer, for the morning breaks  
Far over Rome.  
The cold proud city for its sport awakes.  
Lord, when I stand before the populace  
In the arena, let me see Thy Face.

“ O soul, be brave !  
Behold, thy chains shall fall from thee ere noon.  
Mighty to save  
Is the Lord's Christ, and He shall save thee soon !  
Death is upon thee, therefore praise and pray,  
Thou shalt be with Him in His heaven to-day.”

M. M. P.

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May 31.

IN MEMORIAM.

"I will give you a text to think of," said a dying mother to a much-loved son-in-law in their last interview. "'Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life,' *fast* hold," she repeated emphatically.

Nearly twenty-seven years rolled on after her death, years of faithful loving service, and then he too lay dying; and in almost his last conscious moment he said to his wife, as though it were a message from one deathbed to another, "Who was it that said something to me about laying hold of eternal life?"

"It was the text mamma gave you on her deathbed."

"Oh yes—she said '*fast* hold.' I shall never forget it. What a *grand* thought. How glorious to think I shall soon see my dear mother. What a crowd there will be, and poor dear P. too."

"And you'll wait and watch for me, won't you?"

"I *shall* so, but I've been a great sinner."

"Yes—but Christ is a great Saviour."

"Oh yes!"

June 1.

**GOD'S PROVIDENCE.**

"How blessed to think that each separate occurrence is 'a thought of God.'

"Let us wait patiently till we gaze on the finished structure of eternity. Grace will be given sufficient for every emergency; His arms are ever lower than our troubles."

"'What a day is before us,' writes one who has the glowing wish fulfilled, 'when we shall be able to adore His faithfulness without the teaching of it by a crossed will and disappointed prospects.' Rely on the God of the pillar-cloud; He will bring thee as He did His Israel, through the flood on foot."

**MACDUFF.**

"For each Kyrie ('Lord, have mercy,' &c.) below, there is a Gloria above."

**N.**

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June 2.

HOW TO BRIGHTEN LIFE.

"Life has its enjoyments, and is not the contemptible thing we make it, but Heaven upon earth when it is conducted upon right principles, directed to a right end, and devoted to the will of God. If I were in union with the will of God I should see whatever befalls me as stamped with it, and be always in a state of enjoyment, as having the very thing I desire. God is the great object of my affections, the joy of my life; the portion and strength of my heart; the centre and rest of my soul, to whom all my desires tend, and with whom *only* I am at home. Lord, give me power to say this, and deal with me as Thou pleasest."

ADAMS, 18th Century.

June 3.

**CONCENTRATION.**

"The not minding our own business involves the loss of concentration; and wherever there is a loss of concentration there is a loss of power. Eternity alone will tell how much is lost by turning and stopping to meddle, it may be with that which does not belong to us at all. We dilute our strength by these turnings."

**POWER.**

"It is a moral lesson which quite deserves the rank of a spiritual counsel, that undivided attention to one thing at a time is necessary to do any work well.

"Exclude for the time all thought of other matters, as carefully as if they did not exist. A saint of old quaintly said, 'Christians often need to be reminded that with only one pair of hands they cannot thread two needles at once.'"

**GOULBURN.**

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June 4.

**THE MOTHER'S PAGE.**

**HOW TO TEACH LITTLE CHILDREN ABOUT GOD.**

"No actual rules can be laid down as to the time for beginning ; it depends on a child's intelligence how soon he can receive correct impressions of an invisible Being. Children very early show a desire to know something of the articles they use or possess ; they gradually learn that the things around them must have had a maker, and then it may be well to suggest 'Who made my little boy?' He will probably answer 'Mamma ;' and then, if he shows any thoughtful earnestness, a good opportunity may be afforded of teaching him something of that unseen Friend whose love is tenderer than a mother's. It is most important to watch for favourable openings, and never to continue the subject long."

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June 5.

THOUGHTS ON BEREAVEMENT.

"Our beloved father relapsed into unconsciousness last night; we cannot doubt that as he said a day or two ago, his God is with him in the dark valley. The thought of his glorious awaking does comfort our bursting hearts. God give us submission to His holy will. If we are sorrowful and bereaved, there are blessed ones above who will hail and welcome his arrival. May it please God to sanctify these trials, so that the more we are separated from what we loved best on earth, the more we may be enabled to look to God as our exceeding joy. Not a year ago speaking of dear —— on the day of her funeral, he said, 'My sister has actually seen Jesus, and conversed with apostles and prophets,' and now he is waiting for the same joyful welcome from the same Divine Saviour."

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June 6.

COUNSELS TO A YOUNG WIFE.

"Do try, my child, to be less sensitive, especially in matters relating to yourself; and to take things quietly, and not get on too fast, but wait awhile. Strive to be really *glad* to be thwarted; you will be all the happier a wife for it. Power is not the inheritance either of wives or daughters; it would be ruin to you to have your own way in everything. I should be ready to doubt whether God loved you if He placed you in a situation in which you always had your own way. You will be so much happier when you have learned the lesson that power and influence only come through humility."

M. A. C.

"We shall never be pleased by doing all we please."

N.

June 7.

HARMONY OF TRUTH.

“‘Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling’ (Phil. ii. 12, 13). Take this as the one central truth, isolated and supreme, and the whole system of penance, of works of supererogation, &c., is the logical sequence.

“‘It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.’

“Take *this* as the one central isolated truth, and Calvinism is established. The Apostle takes both aspects, and by the little word ‘for’ connects and assimilates apparent contradictions.

“There are harmonies in music in which discords blending together produce one perfect whole; and we may be sure it is so of the Divine truths of religion and revelation.”

FROM “EVENING HOURS.”

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June 8.

"'STRANGERS AND PILGRIMS' (HEB. xi. 13).

"Men go walking through the wilderness even side by side, knowing little or nothing of each other's troubles. Some of life's troubles are silent and secret, things never spoken about, and therefore the heavier to carry. Fellowship and sympathy are very precious ; but, like other things, they have their own sphere, and 'bounds which they cannot pass.' There are heart burdens which cannot be lifted and laid upon other hearts, however true and faithful they may be. But God knows how long our walking is to be in this wilderness, and where and when and how it will end.

"And meanwhile remember that in our walking through this great wilderness, we are at times refreshed and strengthened by mercies as special as the troubles are, and probably far more numerous."

ALEX. RALEIGH.

June 9.

F A I T H.

"See that you never hold a consultation unless faith be present, yea, and president too; else all will be in disorder at once. One act of faith shall sooner remove the mountain than all the cattle on a thousand hills."

ELISHA COLES.

"There is so much power in faith, even when faith is applied but to things human and earthly, that let a man be but firmly persuaded that he is born to do, some day, what at the moment seems impossible, and it is fifty to one but what he does it before he dies."

BLACKWOOD.

"We know not *how* things will be fulfilled, but we do know that not one of all God's promises shall fail. Who would have conjectured how Israel of old would escape out of the land of Egypt, even one year before they departed?"

DR. BAYLEE.

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June 10.

## THE INVALID'S PAGE.

HEBREWS x. 37.

"A little while of mingled joy and sorrow,  
A few more years to wander here below,  
To wait the dawning of that golden morrow,  
When morn shall break above our night of woe.

"A few more thorns about our pathway growing,  
Ere yet our hands may cull the heavenly flowers.  
The morn will come, but first the tearful sowing,  
Ere we may rest these weary souls of ours.

"A little while to tell the joyful story  
Of Him who made our guilt and curse His own;  
A little while ere we behold the glory,  
To gain fresh jewels for our heavenly crown.

"A little while, and we shall dwell for ever  
Within our bright, our everlasting home,  
Where time, or space, or death no more can sever  
Our grief-wrung hearts, and pain can never come.

"'Tis but a little while,—the way is dreary,  
The night is dark, but we are nearing land ;  
Oh ! for the rest of Heaven, for we are weary,  
And long to mingle with the deathless band."

RYLE'S HYMNS.

June 11.

**THE WAY HOME.**

“He who seldom thinks of Heaven is not likely to get there; as the way to hit a mark is to keep your eye fixed upon it.”

**BISHOP HORNE.**

“If the way to Heaven be narrow, it is not long; and if the gate be strait, it opens into endless life.”

**BEVERIDGE.**

“Christ’s peace begins in grace, consists with no allowed sin, and ends at length in everlasting peace.”

**MATT. HENRY.**

“The depths of misery are never beyond the depths of mercy.”

**SIBBES.**

“The believer’s dying day is his crowning day.”

**GOODWIN.**

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June 12.

**LOOKING TO CHRIST.**

"To see, to do, to be, requires that right state of mind which is maintained by a daily waiting on Christ, and a strengthening of our faith in Him, as our best and only sure Guide in all things ; as giving us in everything the things best for us, and in His own way.

"It is not necessary for us to impose burdens on ourselves, to whip ourselves with cords, or to cast ourselves on a funeral-pile. God is rich in mercy, and He may sanctify us by what He gives, as well as by what He takes away ; nor is it necessary for us to pain our hearts by determining what we shall do in such and such circumstances."

NORMAN MACLEOD.

June 13.

TO BEREAVED PARENTS.

"It is a soothing thought to any who have lost their darlings in infancy or early childhood, that their lives were complete—they had shown us the glory of God in their dear little ways: they have gone to be with Him.

"We reckon not by months or years where they have gone to dwell.'

"A great scholar and philosopher said after the death of a sweet daughter, 'As soon as her last breath was gone, I was able to thank God that He had taken my child into His arms, where she is safe for ever from all the troubles and the sorrows of life. The first chapter of her existence is closed. Who knows what troubles might have been in store for her? But she was found worthy to enter the Kingdom of Heaven as a little child.'"

DEAN STANLEY,

*From a Sermon to the Children in Westminster Abbey, Dec. 28, 1876.*

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June 14.

R E S U L T S.

"It seems to be one of the marked rules of God's providential government, that seemingly trifling offences, if committed wilfully and against warning, bring upon us irremediable punishment.

"One thought of evil admitted into our hearts by our own choice, will do us more harm than all we are taught by experience without our choice, as we pass through life.

"We are upon the whole satisfied with ourselves, but there is another reckoning, at the Judgment-Day, which tells the effect of every hasty word, every proud cold look or tone, upon the hearts of those who dwell with us. God have mercy upon us when that revelation is made."

FROM "CLEVE HALL."

June 15.

MATT. vi. 34.

"Take no thought for the morrow, its trials or  
dangers,  
Why burden thy spirit with deepening  
gloom?  
Ah! to-day hath enough to distress and per-  
plex thee,  
It needeth no shadow of dark things to come.  
"Take no thought for the morrow ; no sorrow  
shall touch thee,  
But that which thy God in His love hath  
decreed;  
Go to Christ with thy grief as it daily ariseth,  
And seek for His strength in the moment of  
need.  
"Take no thought for the morrow ; rich mercy  
abounding  
Has marked every step of thy pathway till  
now ;  
Put thy trust, then, in God for the still distant  
future,  
Effacing those dark lines of care from thy brow.  
"Take no thought for the morrow, its dawning  
may find thee  
A spirit at rest 'neath the altar of God,  
With the *last* battle fought, and the *last* trial  
ended,  
The victory won through Emmanuel's  
blood."

RYLE'S HYMNS.

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June 18..

ON GOD'S CARE.

"How exquisitely does Christ point to nature, linking the world without to the world within. 'Behold the fowls of the air.' They are as happy as the day is long; 'they have survived a dreary winter without any care or anxiety; and why? Their Heavenly Guardian feedeth them. 'Are ye not much better than they?' nearer, dearer to God; His *children*, not His birds.

"'Consider the lilies how they grow.' He who takes care of birds and flowers will take care of His own children. If He knoweth our need, if He cares for us, why should we care? 'Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you,' given over and above."

NORMAN MACLEOD.

June 17.

THREE SOWINGS.

“Sown by the way-side, in stony ground, among thorns. There is in these three classes a threefold progress:—

“1st.—In *Time*. The first is hindered at the very outset, the second soon after it has sprung up, the third when it is come, or coming, to maturity.

“2nd.—In *apparent degree*. The climax is apparently from bad to better: the first understand not; the second understand and feel; the third understand, feel, and practise.

“But also, 3rd, in *real degree*, from bad to worse. Less awful is the state of those who understand not the word, and lose it immediately, than that of those who feel it, receive it with joy, and in time of trial fall away. More awful still is the state of those who understand, feel, and practise, but are fruitless and impure.”

*Abridged from DEAN ALFORD.*

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June 18.

"A RAINBOW ROUND ABOUT THE THRONE."

REV. IV. 3.

"When we are tempted to walk the world with downcast eyes and gloomy hearts, let us raise our eyes from earth to Heaven.

"Here the clouds are black and the rain is chilly, but the sun is still there, and the rainbow there.

"In our coldness, in our bitterness, in our misery, we are, alas! but as raindrops in the saddening and drizzling showers of earth; but thank God, 'in every raindrop there is a latent rainbow,' and through each one of those wavelets of tremulous crystal, can 'the risen light of the Sun of Righteousness be bent downwards in faint refraction.'

"The key-note of the Apocalypse is man's victory in Christ; and it is thus that the Scriptures leave us with music in our ears."

DR. FARRAR.

June 19.

**OUR HOME-JOURNEY.**

“A sigh can reach His ear ; the upward glancing of the soul may array on our behalf the resources of Omnipotence.” “We breathe mercies, our whole life is a passage from one mercy to another.”

**CHRISTIAN TREASURY.**

“Live for to-day ! to-morrow’s light  
To-morrow’s cares shall bring to sight ;  
Go—sleep like closing flowers at night,  
And Heaven thy morn will bless.”

**KEBLE.**

“Think how soon the Father’s house will  
be your home.”

**RALEIGH.**

“God’s way must needs be the way to God.”

**N.**

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June 20.

DAILY DUTY.

"The Lord shuts us up to one thing: 'Do what is right; if thou wilt, I will teach thee.' Each day has its own duties, and trials, and difficulties. God does not tell us to take care of the week, month, or year, but of the day or hour; not of the next possible mile of the journey, but of the certain step which must be taken for the present."

NORMAN MACLEOD.

"If we cannot see the end from the beginning, what matters it, so long as He sees it?

"When we borrow trouble, and look forward into the future to see what storms are coming, we lose our proper trustfulness in God."

AIDS TO PRAYER.



**June 21.**

**OUR TRANSITORY LIFE.**

"Let us not forget that the world passeth away, that the grace and the fashion of it perisheth. A few more years, or a few more months, or a few more days, and the place that knows us now shall know us no more for ever. For what is our life? The flitting of a shadow, the glance of a meteor, the flight of an arrow through the air that leaves no trace of its passage behind it, a dream of the night, the break of the wave upon the sands."

**DR. HANNA.**

"The body is but the tabernacle for the soul, the casket for the jewel, the covering for the book, the frame for the picture, the case for the treasure, the purse for the golden coin."

**THE REV. J. H. HITCHENS.**

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June 22.

ON ARY SCHEFFER'S PICTURE OF THE  
CHRISTUS CONSOLATOR.

“ Round about His form  
They gather, gazing on Him. In His Face,  
Oh ! what pathetic meanings ! eloquent  
Of far-off days of suffering and of toil,  
Far off, but unforgotten. . . .  
A calm that breathes compassion, in its  
strength  
Divine, but in its pain-taught tenderness  
Most human ; yea, a calm that tells of rest  
Won for the weary, in most weary hours  
Of earthly woe. . . . Sorrowful  
They came, and in that presence straightway  
fell  
The long life-burden ; in that light of love  
The old perplexing shadows fled away,  
And from their souls a song goes up to greet  
The spiritual morning. In that calm  
Dies all the tumult of the strife with sin,  
The voices of unrest and of despair  
Are hushed for ever.”

STONE.

June 23.

HIDDEN STRENGTH.

"Go forward in your spiritual course with all the energy of your soul. Place the foreseen difficulties in the Hand of God, and He shall remove them. He will in the end pour into our souls such an influx of blessedness, that, at every fresh draught of the river of His pleasures, we shall say, 'Thou hast kept the good wine until now.'

"Be the work allotted to us by Providence what it may, the mind can create an interest in it, by simply throwing itself into what has to be done. When the mind is thrown off its balance, be perfectly silent for a few moments, thinking of Jesus. There is an almost Divine force in silence ; say secretly, 'Grant, I beseech Thee, merciful Lord, to Thy faithful servant, pardon and peace.' "

GOULBURN.

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June 24.

MATT. xiv. 12.

"The parents of John the Baptist were, doubtless, now dead; so that only his affectionate disciples remained to do for him the last offices that affection can perform. They had dearly loved their Master, and true love cares for every part of its object, so now his remains were precious in their sight.

"Wending their way from the silent grave they 'go and tell Jesus.' While John lived they had been jealous for him, envious of the Saviour's pre-eminence; but calamity had taught them, as it often teaches us, wiser lessons. It was well they went. He could sympathise with them. True, he needed not their telling, He knew it all before, yet it was well they went. He Himself had wept at the grave of Lazarus, and His heart is the very throne of pity."

THE REV. J. CRUMP.

June 25.

FROM A LETTER OF MRS. FRY'S TO HER  
DAUGHTER, ON FANCIED TROUBLES.

"I feel earnestly desirous that thou shouldest think as little as possible of thy nervous feelings. Nothing is more important than to set it down as a clear and fixed thing in the mind, that whilst this nervousness lasts, it is not sound, and *must not* be believed, or taken heed to.

"Hard, very hard, as it is to bear, I believe that it is a baptism to fit for a fulness of joy and glory rarely partaken of."

On a different subject Mrs. Fry writes: "I believe I never awake from sleep, in sickness or in health, by day or by night, without my first waking thought being how best I might serve my Lord."

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June 26.

THE SABBATH.

“Once give over caring for the Sabbath, and in the end you will give over caring for your soul.

“The steps which lead to this conclusion are easy and regular. Begin with not honouring God’s day, and you will soon not honour God’s house ; cease to honour God’s house, and you will soon cease to honour God’s book. Cease to honour God’s book, and by-and-by you will give God no honour at all. Let a man lay the foundation of having no Sabbath, and I am never surprised if he finishes with the top-stone of no God.

“Settle down under a faithful ministry, and, once settled, let your place in church never be empty.

“Give God His day.”

RYLE.



June 27.

WORKING FOR CHRIST.

"Consecrate your work to Him by a few moments of secret prayer ; then put your hand to it bravely, endeavouring to keep before the mind the aim of pleasing Him by diligence and zeal.

"Imagine Jesus examining your work, as He will do at the last day ; and strive that there may be no flaw in it, that it may be thoroughly well done."

GOULBURN.

"It is the happiness of a Christian, until he attain perfection, to be advancing towards it ; to be daily refining from sin, and growing richer and stronger in the graces that make a Christian a new creature ; to reach a higher degree of patience, and meekness, and humility, to have the heart more weaned from earth and fixed on Heaven."

LEIGHTON.

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June 28.

THE VALUE OF SOULS.

“Souls are very precious. He that paid for them found them so ; yet how cheaply do sinners sell their souls, as if they were but low-priced commodities.

“But you that sell your souls cheap will buy repentance dear.

“Grace never appears grace till sin appears to be sin. The deeper our sense of the evil of sin, the deeper will be our apprehension of the free grace of God in Christ.”

FLAVEL.

“Let us take heed ; for mercy is like a rainbow which God set in the clouds to remember mankind : we must never look for it after night, and it shines not in the other world. If we refuse mercy here, we shall have justice to eternity.”

JEREMY TAYLOR.

June 29.

FOR THE BEREAVED.

“The wind that beats the mountain, blows  
More softly round the open wold ;  
And gently comes the world to those  
That are cast in a gentle mould.

“And me this knowledge bolder made,  
Or else I had not dared to flow  
In these words towards you, and invade  
Even with a verse, your holy woe.

“ ‘Tis strange that those we lean on most,  
Those in whose laps our limbs are nursed,  
Are in the shadows soonest lost.  
Those we love best are taken first.

“God gives us love. Something to love  
He lends us ; but when love is grown  
To ripeness, that on which it thrrove  
Falls off, and love is left alone.”

TENNYSON.

“And yet *not* alone. Love follows the beloved to God’s Paradise, and He who is very pitiful bids the aching heart rest in Himself, and there falls on it a hush of peace.”

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June 30.

IN MEMORIAM.

THE MISSIONARY ROBERT NOBLE'S DYING WORDS.

After twenty-four years' toil rest came at last.  
He was asked on his death-bed by his fellow  
labourer,

“Where are you going?”

“*Home.*”

“Where is your home?”

“Very near; will you forgive me for going  
so soon?”

“Do you trust now in Jesus?”

“I do not know. I must not boast. I think  
I may say I do.”

On the day he died, October 17th, 1865, he  
said, “I am going to an eternal holiday,”  
speaking emphatically of Christ as “a living  
Saviour.”

“Is He precious to you now?”

“Very precious.”

July 1.

GLAD SERVICE.

"Keep in the sunshine. The fruit cannot be sweet and luscious without the warm beams of the sun. Dwell much in the love and joy of Christ. Delight yourself ever in Him, in His loving Presence, in His unfailing sympathy, in His ready and powerful help, in His unchangeable faithfulness and truth. No tongue can tell how the Father delights in the holiness, happiness, and usefulness of His children. He accepts their least services, and never despises the day of small things. He marks their sighs and tears, their works and labours of love, their patience of hope, their wish to please Him more and more."

THE REV. G. EVERARD.

"He doeth much that loveth much."

July 2.

GOD'S GUIDING HAND.

" Amid the daily cares and anxieties of this transitory life, it is a comfort to know that though we cannot see one day before us, yet our Heavenly Father knoweth all, and has promised to guide us with *His Eye*. How much of providential wisdom and love is implied in those two words."

" There may seem no way open just now but that of quiet, patient waiting, which is just the discipline that is often both needful and good for our impatient spirits. When the right time comes for acting, no impediment will hinder; till then 'our strength is to sit still.' God's ways are deep and mysterious, and often past finding out; but all things 'work together for good.' "

July 3.

THE INVALID'S PAGE.

"God has mercifully spared me, but my serious illness has left an impress which will not be effaced until the blessed time when all things are made new in our Heavenly Father's Kingdom. One year of unbounded bliss, the beginning of never ending ages of ever increasing happiness, will indeed throw into remote shade our transitory days of depression and weakness."

"I do indeed feel thankful that poor H.'s suffering child is removed from all the sorrows of this life to the blessed rest above. How unutterably sweet to one whose short pilgrimage was one of almost unmingled sorrow, to be welcomed into that bright home where the inhabitant 'shall not say I am sick.'"

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July 4.

GOD'S INSTRUMENTS.

"There are some who busy themselves in every good word and work, but whose own spiritual life makes very little progress. They have a restless and boundless activity for improving people in general. Being anxious to mend things in general, they are apt only to see things that want to be mended. Oh! if they would commune with their own hearts a little, and 'be still and know that the Lord He is God.'

"While we are only God's tools for doing His work, yet the tool should be made as perfect as possible for the task, and moreover it is only thoroughly perfected in doing it. God's work is of that kind which can only be done by instruments carefully prepared for it. Mechanical, unintelligent work will not do it. Hard, unsympathising work will not do it. What we have to do, then, is to perfect the tool for its work."

FROM "GOOD WORDS."

July 5.

THE POWER OF PRAYER.

2 KINGS xix. 14.

"Hezekiah spreading the letter before the Lord. The central lesson of the scene is this —'man's extremity was God's opportunity,' and it became God's opportunity through earnest prayer. Hezekiah lays the letter open before God upon his knees, and then

'The angel of death spread his wings on the blast;  
And breathed in the face of the foe as he passed:  
And the eyes of the sleepers waxed deadly and chill,  
And their hearts but once heaved and for ever stood still.'

'God is love.' Could He show it us better than by sending His Son to die for us? He will listen, be sure, to the cry of the poorest destitute, to the cry of the humblest woman, yea even to

'An infant crying in the night,  
An infant crying for the light,  
And with no language but a cry.'

Try it in any little trouble of your own, and you will find that God will help you."

THE REV. F. W. FARRAR.

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July 6.

GOD'S TEACHINGS.

"God speaks to us in many ways, and with manifold voices. God is ever speaking to us ; and if at any time we imagine God is keeping silence, we may be sure that it is not that God is ceasing to speak, but that we are ceasing to hear."

MORRIS.

"We may not fret because of the mysteries of life, we may not have recourse to crooked ways of deliverance from the evils of life ; we must simply wait in the calm strength of patient trust, and God will work out the right issues. Surely we may leave in His Hands even the things that we understand the least."

THE REV. H. ALLON.

"We are ever present to God ; let God be ever present to us."

N.



---- July 7.

"EN AVANT!"

"Heavy and thick the atmosphere,  
The prospect narrow, dark, severe,  
Yet a few steps the path is clear:  
In those few steps march on.

"Like giants ranged across the path,  
Dark rocks are frowning as in wrath,  
Be sure the gorge some outlet hath,  
In Christ's blest Name march on.

"The day goes out, the fog upcrowds,  
Darkness the face of Heaven enshrouds,  
A voice shall guide thee through the clouds.  
Still patiently march on.

"If duty set you in the way,  
You need not fear, you must not stay,  
Still faithfully her word obey,  
Still loyally march on.

"Let but your aims be high and true,  
Your spirit firm, but patient too,  
A strength Divine shall go with you,  
In Christ's dear Name *march on.*"

July 8.

OVER-ANXIETY.

“‘Be careful for nothing.’ Christ only uses this word ‘careful’ three times, and always in the sense of over-anxiety, worry. Worry is useless, it weakens the strength to meet trial ; it is also sinful, as caused by want of trust in our loving Father’s overruling Providence, which brings good out of all our sorrows. Do your best, and leave it. Cast out worry by faith and trust, and by earnest work for God.”

FROM A SERMON AT ST. MARY’S CHURCH,  
BRIGHTON.

“A Hand shall sustain us and our daily burden ; so that, smiling at yesterday’s fears, we shall say, ‘this is easy, this is light.’

“Surely, unfailingly, we are drawing near the answer to all our prayers.”

“RAYS OF SUNLIGHT.”

July 9.

ON RECREATION.

"I have chosen the service of Almighty God, in whatever position He pleases to place me, as the one object of my life. To this great object I have determined to devote all my faculties of body and soul. But then neither body nor soul can be sound or healthy without innocent recreation.

"Innocent recreation therefore I will have ; not merely because it gratifies me, but chiefly because it is subservient to my end.

"Recreation is quite sufficiently useful if it refreshes our own minds and bodies, and renders them more efficient instruments of the Divine Service."

GOUODBURN.

"Smiles are the gift of Him who wept."

N.

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July 10.

TRUE GREATNESS.

"It is hard work for strength to 'sit still,' to believe that to sit still is strength. With what wild cries, with what impetuous struggles even the greatest saints have thrown themselves against the strong patient processes of God—Job, David, Elijah, Jeremiah. Yet this is not our ideal of greatness. There was One who being in an agony prayed, whose heart of faith, even in His strong crying and tears, this great patient trust never forsook.

"This is true greatness, to be patient in conscious strength. The only possibility of it is to put things into God's Hand. 'Commit thy way unto the Lord.' Only in still waters of the soul can the Divine image be reflected. All gracious processes are wrought in restful souls."

THE REV. H. ALLON.

July 11.

ON PRAYING FOR RECOVERY FROM ILLNESS.

"Hezekiah's may here be a case in point. When he was sick, and horribly afraid of death, he prayed, prayed passionately, for life, and God granted him life. But it is always dangerous thus importunately to storm the councils of God. God gave him fifteen years of life, but I fear that they were but fifteen years of fearing death; and in those years he became the father of a supremely wicked son. Those years were years of labour and sorrow, and but for that intense prayer he might, as God's special blessing, have entered fifteen years earlier upon his happy rest."

THE REV. F. W. FARRAR.

"The child may tell his father all his wants, but may he urge and whimper if the father's love says *No?*"

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July 12.

GLAD ANTICIPATIONS.

"There never was a night so long that the day did not overtake it. There never was a morning without its morning star ; there never was a day without its sun.

"Send a glance Godward from the summit of every exalted hour, as from a hill-top a child going home would strive to catch a glimpse of his father's house.

"Some Christians trust in God to such a degree as to believe that, whatever may be the happenings of Providence, everything will be for the best, and that they will be taken care of, and never left alone.

"We are too slow to believe in His generosity. He commands us to confide entirely in Him, to have no hesitancy in our faith."

"AIDS TO PRAYER."

July 13.

LIFE MOSAIC.

“ Master, to do great work for Thee, my hand  
Is far too weak ! Thou givest what may suit,  
Some little chips to cut with care minute,  
Or tint, or grave, or polish. Others stand  
Before their quarried marble, fair and grand,  
And make a life-work of the great design  
Which Thou hast traced ; or many-skilled  
combine  
To build vast temples, gloriously planned.  
Yet take the tiny stones which I have wrought  
Just one by one as they were given by Thee,  
Not knowing what came next in Thy wise  
thought.  
Set each stone by Thy master-hand of grace,  
Form the mosaic as Thou wilt for me,  
And in Thy temple-pavement give it place.”

FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL.

“ Love of earth makes Divine things drudg-  
ery ; love of Heaven makes drudgery divine.”

N.

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July 14.

THE MOTHER'S PAGE.

"All education should be richly leavened with the principles of our holy religion. I suppose that in this I am at one with Christians of every land, and every Church."

TRIGG.

"Be patient with the children. How much we need God's patience! How we try it! We forget that their faults are, it may be, but the reflections of our own. A child is a tender thing; it must be handled tenderly: a rough word may break down its spirit; a rude touch may set it wrong for eternity.

"God develops His own handiwork in time; the infant is not a man for one-and-twenty years. We should be *loving* with him; love is the universal solvent; only love can exercise the watchfulness he needs. Above all, how we should pray for him! None but God can control the heart."

BISHOP POTTER.

July 15.

THOUGHTS FOR MOURNERS.

“‘Oh! who plucked that flower? Who gathered that plant?’ said the gardener, as he passed down the garden walk.

“His fellow-servant answered, ‘The Master,’ and the gardener held his peace.”

EXTRACT FROM AN OLD NEWSPAPER.

“Bury *thy* sorrow, let others be blest,  
Give them the sunshine, tell Jesus the rest.”

“Could you have seen the reception of your child in Heaven, and heard the words that were spoken concerning it, and concerning you; could you behold it in some circle of the redeemed, the leader of some little choir, or awakening love and wonder at the development of no common power, or the youngest, sweetest singer there, you would cease to weep, except for joy.”

DR. ADAMS.

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July 16.

THE COMFORTER.

“O Holy Comforter,  
Thy light  
Is light eternal and serene ;  
Shine Thou, and on my ravished sight  
Visions shall break of things unseen ;  
Come, Messenger Divine,  
Make these bright glimpses mine.

“O Holy Comforter,  
Thy love  
O'erfloweth as the flooding sea ;  
Give me its tenderness to prove,  
Then shall my heart o'erflow to Thee.  
Come, Messenger Divine,  
Fill Thou this breast of mine.

“O Holy Comforter,  
Thy peace,  
The peace of God, impart and keep  
Unruffled till life's tumult cease,  
And all its angry tempests sleep ;  
Come, Messenger Divine,  
Thy perfect peace be mine.”

RAY PALMER.



July 17.

THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD.

"A father busies himself to care for each member of his family. The children need not vex themselves about their future; all will be arranged. 'How much more' so with our Father in Heaven, and His children on earth!

"Children of the King, do you half know your royal standing, your princely privileges? What are the things of this world to you? He has better gifts to offer. Led by the gentle Hand of your Elder Brother, come to your Father's footstool, and tell Him all your needs, lay there all your petitions. A Father's love will shine in the answer, whether your wish be granted or refused.

"In all the sorrows, all the tangles, all the burdens of this life, rest ever in the thought of the great Fatherly loving heart of God."

AGNES GIBERNE.

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July 18.

CHRIST OUR ALL.

“Christ is the light ; let us receive the light.  
Christ is the truth ; let us believe the truth.  
Christ is the way ; let us follow the way.  
And because He is our only Master, our only  
Teacher, our only Shepherd and chief Captain ; therefore let us become His servants, His scholars, His sheep, and His soldiers. Let us receive Christ, not for a time, but for ever ; let us believe His Word, not for a time, but for ever ; let us become His servants, not for a time, but for ever ; in consideration that He hath redeemed and saved us, not for a time, but for ever ; and will receive us into His Heavenly Kingdom, there to reign with Him, not for a time, but for ever.

“To Him, therefore, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, be all honour, praise, and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.”

FROM “THE HOMILY OF THE NATIVITY.”

July 19.

OUR FATHER'S CARE.

"Each man is liable, through his ignorance of the similar, or even severer, trouble of others around him, to feel as if he were peculiarly left to walk and suffer alone. But 'God knoweth thy walking through this great wilderness.' He knoweth, carefully observeth, troubleth Himself divinely, about thy poor human trouble. He goes with thee step by step, still caring, still watching; never sleeping, never weary, never discouraged in His work.

"We get to-day the fruits of some ancient Divine thoughts and operations. He sows on our behalf, and some of the seed springs quickly, and some is long in growing, but every day we reap and gather something. 'He knoweth.' All consolation is in that. All strength comes out of that. 'He knoweth'—and many a time He *only*. 'He knoweth.' Thank God, and take courage."

ALEX. RALEIGH.

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July 20.

HOLY SCRIPTURE.

"It remaineth, gentle Reader, that we commend thee to God, and to the Spirit of His grace, which is able to build further than we can ask or think.

"He removeth the scales from our eyes, the vail from our hearts, opening our wits that we may understand His Word ; enlarging our hearts, yea correcting our affections, that we may love it above gold and silver, yea that we may love it to the end. Others have laboured, and you may enter into their labours ; O receive not so great things in vain ! O despise not so great salvation ! . . . It is a fearful thing to fall into the Hands of the Living God ; but a blessed thing it is, and will bring us to everlasting blessedness in the end, when God speaketh unto us to hearken, when He setteth His Word before us to read it, when He stretcheth out His Hand and calleth, to answer 'Here am I, here we are, to do Thy will, O God.'

"The Lord work a care and conscience in us to know Him and serve Him, that we may be acknowledged of Him at the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, to Whom, with the Holy Ghost, be all praise and thanksgiving. Amen."

*Close of the "TRANSLATORS' PREFACE TO  
THE READER," copied from a Black  
Letter Bible, A.D. 1628.*

July 2].

C A R E.

"Care is too heavy a burden for a man to bear, even with the most powerful assistance that can be given him. He must cast it off, he must throw it on One who is able to bear it, or he will sink under it. And what is this burden? Care—*i.e.* such anxiety as divides or distracts the mind, for this is the etymology of the original word.

"When this load is laid on any man, it robs him of his energy, it deprives him of his comfort, and, even in the solemn privacy of devotion, it interposes an icy barrier between him and the light of God's countenance. There is but one refuge for him, and that is to place it in Hands which are Almighty."

KYLE.

July 22.

#### THE SABBATH.

"The value of the Sabbath is really and literally inestimable to the over-worked and worried man; if it be kept sacred not merely from worldly work, but from the intrusion of worldly cares and thoughts.

"The thing can be done. As the last hour of Saturday strikes, the burden may fall from the mind, the pack of worries may be whipped off.

"A strict resolution to preserve the Lord's Day sacred would lengthen many a valuable life, and preserve the spring of many a noble mind."

BOYD.

"Rest assured that a Christian, having the love of God written in his heart, and yet denying the Sabbath a place in his affections, is an anomaly nowhere to be found."

DR. CHALMERS.

July 23.

OUR LODE-STAR.

"The master of a ship, when he is on the main sea, casts his eye always upon the lode-star (pole-star), and so directs and guides his ways.

"Even so must we, who are passengers and strangers in this world, ever settle our eyes to behold the Word of God; so shall no tempest overblow us, so shall we safely arrive in the haven of our rest. This is the rule of faith. Without this our faith is but a fantasy and no faith; for faith is by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

BISHOP JEWELL, *died A.D. 1571.*

"Those have best learned the meaning of the Scripture that have learned how to apply it, as a reproof to their own fault, and a rule to their own practice."

MATTHEW HENRY.

July 24.

“ ALL ARE NOT TAKEN.”

“ All are not taken ! There are left behind  
Living belovèds, tender looks to bring,  
And make the daylight still a blessed thing,  
And tender voices to make soft the wind.  
But if it were not so ; if I could find  
No love in all the world to answer me,  
Nor any pathway but rang hollowly,  
Where ‘dust to dust’ the love from life dis-  
joined ;  
And if with parchèd lips, as in a dearth  
Of water-springs the very deserts claim,  
I uttered to those sepulchres unmoving  
The bitter cry, ‘ Where are ye, O my loving ? ’  
I know a voice would sound, ‘ Daughter, I AM,  
Can I suffice for Heaven and not for earth ? ’ ”

ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING.

“ The road is not bad, if I get home well.”

OUR OWN FIRESIDE.

July 25.

REPENTANCE.

"Though it is certain that true repentance is never too late, it is as certain that late repentance is seldom true. Counterfeit repentance commonly cheats men with general promises, and is loth to covenant against particular sins. Reformation is not sincere if it be not universal."

MATTHEW HENRY.

"He that hath tasted of the bitterness of sin will fear to commit it; and he that hath felt the sweetness of mercy will fear to offend it."

CHARNOCK.

"He who sins against men may fear discovery, but he who sins against God is sure of it."

JONES OF NAYLAND.

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July 28.

STEPPING HEAVENWARD,

In a letter to a friend Mrs. Winslow writes :  
“I am creeping on, little by little, to my happy, thrice happy Home ; where I hope to meet you, and give you a loving welcome.

“Try and realise the glory that awaits you there ; take your walks in the upper streets, and see there, on that great white throne, that same Jesus that was and lived below ‘a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.’ See Him, in that very body which He took up with Him, watching over you here, moment by moment ; caring for you in all things, and ready to do all you call upon Him for.

“He transacts all my business for me, and for worlds I would not take it out of His Hands. He seeth the end from the beginning ; we see not an inch before us.”

July 29.

ON THE HISTORY OF JACOB.

"From the time of his banishment from home he shows a depth of religious character never seen in him before.

"He is no longer bent upon snatching God's good things from Him, but willing in all things to wait the Lord's time, and the Lord's will, and the Lord's way.

"Contemplate him on his death-bed. Behold him, as his rapt gaze seems to look upon Christ as already lifted up ; the exalted centre of all human hopes, directing all eyes to His cross, drawing all hearts to His throne, bowing all knees in His worship, as He fulfils that word, 'Unto Him shall the gathering of the people be.' Glorious close of all ! See the bright spirit, as it begins to spread out its wings for flight, as it testifies in its last utterances the peace he enjoys, the promises he believes in, the blessed consummation he is waiting for."

D. MOORE.

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July 30.

IN THE FAIR HAVEN.

“ At noontide when the golden light was burning  
On gleaming waves, and wastes of yellow sand,  
I watched a little vessel, swift returning  
Home, to the land.

“ Homeward, straight home! Before the night de-  
scended  
The peaceful haven would be safely won.  
O happy bark, whose toilsome voyage ended  
Ere day was done.

“ And then I thought of one whom God had taken  
Before the day of youth had lost its light;  
Life was still sweet, and faith was still unshaken.  
She knew no night.

“ No beating in the midnight, tossed and riven;  
No straining through the darkness for the goal;  
For unto thee the rest was early given,  
O blessed soul!

“ Not unto me such speedy peace is granted;  
My years are many, and my sun has set;  
By winds assailed, by treacherous calm enchanted,  
I struggle yet.

“ But thou, perchance, in thy fair haven standing,  
Gazing expectant o'er our stormy sea,  
May watch my worn-out vessel near the landing,  
And welcome me.”

SARAH DOUDNEY.

July 31.

IN MEMORIAM.

“We do not think our beloved father so well. It is hoping against hope. When we contrast his worn and feeble body with all its weariness and pain, with the abundant entrance, the resting with Jesus, we ought not to wish to keep him. Since yesterday he has remained in a peaceful unconscious sleep. It is difficult to realise that he is going. We fancy he will speak were we to wake him.

“But O what a waking is before him! light and joy and love for ever.

“During a gleam of consciousness Aunt — came to see him for the last time, and said, ‘Do you know your own sister?’ He stretched out his hand to her, and replied, in a soft whisper, ‘I love her.’

“During another conscious interval he said, ‘I have no other ground of confidence but in the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ first, Christ last, Christ all in all.’”

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August 1.

CHRIST'S SYMPATHY.

"Do not take up your time so much with studying your own heart as with studying Christ's heart.

"The only way to be kept from falling is to grow. There never was, and never will be, a believing prayer left unanswered."

M<sup>c</sup> CHEYNE.

"The sufferings endured on Calvary leave us no doubt of our dear Lord's *perfect* sympathy. He can whisper peace in ways we little dream of, and give besides the listening understanding ear."

E. O.

"When we see God's Hand in any passing trouble, the pain is not gone, but the bitterness is; for there is something positively allied to pleasure in feeling His Hand near us, even though it hold a rod."

CHRISTIAN TREASURY.

August 2.

A PAGE FOR MISTRESSES.

"Amid many domestic tasks, and cares, and crosses, tried by the varying tempers of the house, and sometimes, under provocation, having enough to do with your own—go when you are hot, or when you are weary, or disturbed, and, like Mary, sit down for a few moments at the Master's Feet.

"Then rise and begin again 'for His Name's sake,' and everything will go more easily. It will be as though you had broken a box of ointment, and all the house will be filled with the odour of it. Christ's is a name, truly, above every name, and its powers and constraints are felt, if we will, amid the multitude of our daily business, and in the scenes and transactions of our common life; where, if we will, amid things which perish in the usingt we may find nourishment for our immortal life."

ALEX. RALEIGH.

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August 3.

THE INVALID'S PAGE.

"Who could wish to keep that precious sufferer from his Saviour's Arms? If ever the last enemy could be viewed as conquered and transformed into a messenger of peace, it must be in such a case as his. You will not lose but gain infinitely by his release from a world pre-eminently one of sorrow and privation to him.

"You will receive him again, glorious, perfected, strengthened for the enjoyment of everlasting bliss and holiness. Try not to grieve too much even over his present state, which no doubt your tender affection tempts you to believe less happy than, in the still greater love of his Heavenly Father, it actually is. The unslumbering Eye is over his couch night and day, and the Arms, never weary, are underneath him."

E. O.

August 4.

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S TEACHINGS.

"We doubt, we try expedients of our own, vain and foolish, but at length He teacheth us that there is indeed another Comforter, who abideth with us always, and we become reconciled and satisfied, though in a different mood of mind from what we started with. God is good, He knoweth our needs; 'Whom He loveth He chasteneth.' We must take the first step, and proceed on regularly, until the last lands us in our happy home. The storms of time usher in the peaceful calm of eternity."

HULETT.

"Your wishes, committed to God in prayer, are in better hands than yours; they are no longer your business, and therefore they need not, nay they must not, be your care."

GOULBURN.

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August 5.

WORK FOR GOD.

"Every day God sets before you good which He hath prepared for you to do; an open door through which you may pass. In your morning prayer always say 'Lord, show me to-day the open doors; give me energy and resolution to cross the threshold.' God is to us whatever we expect Him to be. With the man whose heart yearns for communion, and the higher voices of his being say 'Go upward,' to him God comes and abides."

HART.

"O how sweet to work all day for God, and then to lie down at night under His smile."

M<sup>c</sup> CHEYNE.

"God is often about to give us our very heart's desire, just when He seems to put it farthest away from us."

FAMILY TREASURY.

August 6.

LITTLE JACK.

“ Singing and skipping in healthful mirth,  
Of his household the pride and light,  
No fairer vision e'er passed on earth,  
Than that beauteous child, as he sunnily smiled,  
In his infantine loveliness, undefiled  
By the long years' dust and blight.

“ One night as he lay on his little bed  
They who tended him heard him sing.  
And what were the words in that sweet song said ?  
Oh ! the baby lips told of a crown of gold,  
For a little soldier not five years old,  
Who would fight for his Saviour King.

“ Then the dear Lord spake to the spirits bright  
Appointed to guard that child ;  
Let the little one conquer without the fight.  
His robes are too fair in the battle to wear.  
I will that ye bring him My glory to share  
All scatheless and undefiled.

“ A few short days, and his nursery floor  
Is trodden with noiseless feet,  
Though the sleeper there will awake no more ;  
And a cry half wild, ‘ My child, my child,’  
Thrills the hushed room with his memories filled,  
Memories sad and sweet.

“ But a bright young seraph above the sky  
Doth the Father’s Face behold.  
God wipes no tear from his undimmed eye,  
For of sorrow and woe he was never to know.  
Safely housed by the Lord who had loved him so ;  
He weareth his crown of gold.”

EM. O.

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August 7.

NEARNESS TO CHRIST.

"Quiet, contemplative spirits, like Mary of Bethany, are ever the strongest and bravest, and their life the deepest rooted in God ; they carry within them the germ of all heroism.

'Man's weakness waiting upon God  
Its end can never miss.'

"Nothing is more noticeable in actual life than the clear-sightedness which comes of doing the will of God ; the absence of doubt and perplexity as to the path we should pursue ; the steadfast uprightness which does not stumble ; and the Divine guardianship vouchsafed us. Christ is *our Saviour born*. And when all other confidences are uprooted, when we look round and no man knows us, and a feeling of desolation settles down on our hearts, *His Face* is unchanged, He 'loveth at all times.'"

CULROSS.

August 8.

DETACHED THOUGHTS.

"I have tried, at least for the last twenty-five years, to accept of whatever work is offered to me in God's Providence. I have, rightly or wrongly, always believed that a man's work is given to him; that it need not so much be sought as accepted—that it is floated to one's feet like the infant Moses to Pharaoh's daughter."

"Amidst all confusion, darkness, doubts, fears, there is ever one light, one life, one all,—Jesus, the living personal Saviour."

"There are men who no more grasp the truth which they seem to hold, than a sparrow grasps the message passing through the electric wire on which it perches."

THOUGHTS FROM DR. MACLEOD'S LIFE.

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August 9.

USES OF AFFLICTION.

“No affliction is altogether like any other; God nicely adapts His holy discipline to the individual case.

“It is God’s furnace wherein He purifies His gold. It is God’s pruning-knife wherewith He cuts away the useless suckers, that we may bear more fruit.

“It is God’s kiss wherewith He salutes us as His sons, conveying into our hearts the assurance of our adoption, and shedding abroad in them a quiet sweet sense of His love.

“It is God’s ‘Hush!’ bidding us be still and listen to Him.

“It is most worthy of observation how many of the grandest virtues absolutely require the soil of sorrow for their very existence.”

CULROSS.



August 10.

SCATTERED GEMS OF THOUGHT.

"The Bible without the Spirit is a sun-dial  
by moonlight."

COLERIDGE.

"O vanitas vanitatum, et omnia vanitas;  
præter amare Deum, et Illi soli servire."

THOMAS À KEMPIS.

[O vanity of vanities, and all things are  
vanity; except to love God, and serve Him  
alone.]

"The wound which God makes, God can  
and will heal; there is no healing for that  
which we open for ourselves."

CLEVE HALL.

"Of a truth he is very covetous for whom  
God will not suffice."

THE ARGOSY.

"The way of life is still open, the Saviour  
still within reach."

MORRIS.

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August 11.

ON THE FEAR OF DEATH.

"Art thou afraid of Death? Thou mistakest him; thou thinkest him an enemy; he is a friend. If his visage be sour and hard, he is no other than the porter of Paradise, who shall let thee into glory.

"Like unto Peter's good angel, he may smite thee on the side, but he shall lead thee out of thy prison, through the iron gates, into the city of God.

"Were there an absolute perishing in our dissolution, we could not fear it too much; now that it doth but part us awhile for our advantage, what do we fear but our gain?"

BISHOP HALL.

August 12.

THE OLD, OLD STORY.

“ I love to tell the story  
    Of unseen things above,  
Of Jesus and His Glory,  
    Of Jesus and His Love.

“ I love to tell the story,  
    Because I know it's true ;  
It satisfies my longings,  
    As nothing else would do.

“ I love to tell the story,  
    It did so much for me,  
And that is just the reason  
    I tell it now to thee.

“ I love to tell the story,  
    ‘Tis pleasant to repeat  
What seems, each time I tell it,  
    More wonderfully sweet.

“ And when, in scenes of glory,  
    I sing the new, new Song,  
‘Twill be the Old, Old Story  
    That I have loved so long.”

FROM “ HEART TO HEART.”

August 13.

THOUGHTS FOR THE BEREAVED.

“I take it kindly that the Lord comes to my family to gather lilies wherewith to garnish the upper sanctuary.”

EBENEZER ERSKINE.

“Surely when the door of Paradise is opened to let in our departed friends, delicious breezes blow through it upon us, from that abode of blessedness.”

BENGEL.

“Nearer us they perhaps are than we think, more closely acquainted with us ; regarding us, from their high places, with serene eyes which yet express the love that lay deep in them when they looked ‘Good-bye.’”

CULROSS.

“My dear brother, the resurrection from the dead will be just your daughter’s to-morrow morning ; and the last kiss you gave shall most certainly be returned in all the bloom, aye, and in all the blitheness, of that which is raised in glory. Cheer ye, my old friend, cheer ye.”

JAMESON OF METHVEN.

**August 14.**

**HOW TO WORK FOR GOD.**

"Whatever God does, He does perfectly. Strive to do thy work in such a manner. Let it be thy earnest effort that He who looks into it shall find no flaw. It is a great and precious thought that God may be pleased by service done with the whole soul, and with strict punctuality and conscientiousness. One great secret of success in the Christian warfare is quietness of mind. If we are to have success in the pursuit of holiness, and in meeting our spiritual foes, there must be peace; not only in the consciousness of our acceptance, but peace also in effort and endeavour."

**GOULBURN.**

"He is always willing to give special grace for special emergency."

**AIDS TO PRAYER.**

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August 15.

A PRAYER FOR THE SORROWFUL.

"Blessed Saviour, I devolve my every care on Thee. Thou art noting now on the throne the pangs and sorrows of every burdened heart. All other love is imperfect, all other sympathy is selfish, but Thine.

"May every cross lose its bitterness by having Thee at my side. May I feel that nothing but absence from Thee can create a real blank in my heart. Thy presence takes the sting from all afflictions, and imparts security in the midst of all troubles. Living or dying may I be Thine.

"Heavenly Father, I leave all belonging to me to Thee. 'Undertake Thou for them.' Bless them and make them blessings. Hide them under the shadow of Thy wings until earth's calamities be overpast. And all I ask is for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen."

MACDUFF, "MORNING WATCHES."

August 16.

GLAD ANTICIPATIONS.

"This is not your home. Labour here, rest in Heaven. Trouble here, peace above. Weakness here, strength with God. Shadows here, the substance by-and-by. Tears here, praise hereafter. Blessed hope! 'Let us not be weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not.'"

BATEMAN.

"Did ever *any* commit their way *wholly* into His Hands, in childlike confidence, and find that the trust *was* not received with more abounding love, and more untiring guardianship than we could have even pictured as befalling us in the happiest lot? 'Thou, Lord, hast *never* failed them that seek Thee.'"

FROM "THE MONTHLY PACKET."

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August 17.

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS.

"Summer prime and harvest wealth are not here. The summer of our life and the harvest of our toils are away before us.

"Sow bountifully, and ye shall reap also bountifully.

"Cease to fret over circumstances, and put more strength to duty. He would leave the forest without foliage, sooner than one working faithful soul without grace to help in time of need.

"'My grace is sufficient for thee.' It would be strange indeed if it were not; in that case God's Providence would be stronger than His grace.

"And now we can lean on Him, our Almighty, loving Helper, the 'Friend that sticketh closer than a brother,' and bear all our burdens, and yet walk with elastic step. 'He shall sustain thee,' He cannot forget one who carries this promise in his heart."

RALEIGH.

August 18.

THE CHILDREN GOING HOME.

“They are going, only going,  
Jesus called them long ago ;  
All the wintry time they’re passing  
Softly as the falling snow.  
They are going, only going,  
When with summer earth is dressed ;  
In their cold hands holding roses  
Folded to each silent breast.

“All along the mighty ages,  
All adown the solemn time,  
They have taken up their homeward  
March to a serener clime.  
Where the watching, waiting Angels  
Lead them from the shadow dim  
To the brightness of His Presence  
Who has called them unto Him.

“They are going, only going  
Out of pain and into bliss ;  
Out of sad and sinful weakness  
Into perfect holiness.  
They are going, only going—  
Leaving many a lonely spot,  
But ’tis Jesus who has called them,  
Suffer, and forbid them not.”

*Abridged from the LYRA ANGLICANA.*

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August 19.

DIVINE AND HUMAN SYMPATHY.

"Sympathy! how often sought, how sorely needed, in this vale of shadows and of tears. Who does not know how the heart craves it when oppressed with sorrow, weighed down with present or anticipated trial? We turn with eagerness from one friend to another for sympathy and relief, and at last realise Job's words, and think, if we do not say, 'miserable comforters are ye all.'

"One mind is so differently constituted from another that we may tell a grief too deep for tears, and our friend listens in astonishment that we find it so hard to bear. But *not so Jesus*. He sounds the very depths of the wounded spirit; He never 'hurts the hurt.' He says to His overladen ones:

'Well I know thy sorrows, O My servant true;  
Thou art very weary, *I* was weary too.'

"Cast your whole grief on *Him*."

FROM A SERMON PREACHED AT  
COPPENHALL.

August 20.

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

“If you would pray, but cannot, see Christ  
praying for you, and using His interest with  
the Father for you.”

WILCOX.

“God manifests most of His love to us when  
we are in the lowest abasement.”

ROMAINE.

“I myself am a witness that spiritual com-  
forts are sometimes highest when bodily health,  
strength, and spirits are at the lowest; and  
when bodily health, strength, and spirits are at  
the highest, spiritual comforts are sometimes  
at the lowest; nay, clear gone and totally  
absent.”

TOPLADY.

“Trouble is often the lever in God’s Hands  
to raise us up to Heaven.”

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August 21.

GOD'S GREETINGS.

"When His sun awakes thee to another day of life and health God bids thee 'Good morning,' and when at eventide thine eye closes in peaceful slumber, it is because God hath bid thee 'Good night.' When thou sittest down with healthful appetite to a well-spread board, God says 'Much good may it do thee.'

"When thou art enabled timeously to discover, and thereby avoid, some threatened danger, what is it but God saying to thee 'Take heed to thy ways, My child ; and turn back before it be too late'? When on some genial May morning thou walkest abroad, amid blossoming flowers and singing birds, and thy heart feels light and joyful, is not God saying to thee 'Welcome, heartily welcome, to my lower Palace-garden'?"

FROM THE GERMAN OF HEDEL.

**August 22.**

**"GO AND TELL JESUS."**

"If at any time you are in perplexity or difficulty, through your own imprudence or otherwise, go not to an arm of flesh, nor sit down to consider how you are to obtain deliverance; but go directly to Jesus and tell Him all, *all*. He will appear for you, and bring you out of all by suggesting to your mind the right means to be used, and following them with His blessing.

"Little faith secures but little comfort and less enjoyment. Oh! for a stronger confidence in God! How little do we often think of Whose care we are under, and Whose loving Eye is ever guiding our way through the wilderness! Go to Him with all your fears, your difficulties, your pressures, whatever they may be. Honour Him with your entire confidence. Only trust Him for all consequences."

**FROM MRS. WINSLOW'S LIFE.**

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August 23.

BE NOT AFRAID.

"Fear not for thyself ; I will console thee in trouble, strengthen thee for duty, open a way for thee amid life's perplexities, and pitch thy tent in safe places until it is taken down. Fear not for any of thy kindred and acquaintance of the same family of God. There is a shield over the head of each. They are dear to you ; are they less dear to Me ? Thy brother is dead, but he will be alive again. Fear not, amid changes however startling, amid circumstances however unexpected. I am the perfect Ruler of a perfect Providence."

RALEIGH.

"Our purposes are to be limited by the same horizon which determines our duty, our provision, and our anxieties."

GOULBURN.

August 24.

UNKNOWN TO-MORROWS.

"The mariner best prepares himself for storms, not by imagining, as he paces the deck, a clouded sky and a loud wind; but by looking carefully to the timbers and the cordage of his ship.

"The day that is now passing over our heads does in fact contain, and will partly colour, many days that lie as yet below the horizon. The more we yielded to sin in times past, the more formidable do we find the power of sin to-day. Let us remember, then, in every temptation, that on our present successful resistance depends, not alone our immediate peace of mind, but future vigour and future victory. The strength obtained by the discharge of a duty apparently trivial, may contribute at another day to our victorious passage through some most momentous trial."

VAUGHAN'S "REMAINS."

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August 25.

A PAGE FOR TEACHERS.

"Be patient with the little one. Teach him patiently as God teaches you, 'line upon line.' Cheer him on; in after years his ripe rich thought shall rise up and call you blessed. Bide patiently the endless questionings of children. Bear patiently their childish humours; they are but the untutored pleadings of the young spirit for care and cultivation."

CHRISTIAN TREASURY.

"To educate rightly is a complex and extremely difficult thing, the hardest task that devolves upon adult life. To succeed in it be prepared for mental exertion, study, ingenuity, patience, self-control; a good system of education is twice blessed; it blesses the trainer and the trained, and promises an abundant return of happiness, immediate and remote."

BRITISH QUARTERLY.

**August 28.**

**PRAYER AND ITS ANSWER.**

“Let your prayers be about the things that really interest you. The more minute and individualising a prayer is, the more real it will be. You are coming to One to whom the little and the great are all the same. Nothing is below His sympathy, nothing is above His power. And take care, when prayer is gone up, to look up, David-like, and watch for the arrow’s fall. It will fall, feathered with blessing, though the descent and the spot may be very different from what you looked for.”

**THE REV. J. VAUGHAN.**

“Afflictions are blessings when we can bless God for our afflictions. God had one Son without sin, but He never had any without sorrow.”

**DYER.**

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August 27.

O U R H O M E.

"Peace and calmness, the risen Saviour's special gifts, are found in their perfection in Heaven, that blessed place which His devout people are daily nearing by faith and prayer, and by the ceaseless passing away of our mortal life.

"O Jerusalem above! when shall we reach thee? our abiding-place after the journey, our rest after earth's turmoil, our port after the storm; where, in our own true home we shall enjoy, in all its fulness, that grace which the holy Apostle says 'passeth all understanding.'"

FROM A SERMON PREACHED AT  
FOLKESTONE.

"In secret love the Master  
To each one whispers low,  
'I am at hand ; work faster,  
Behold the sunset glow.'  
And each one smileth sweet  
Who hears the Master's feet."

August 28.

BEHIND THE VEIL.

“ They are all gone into a world of light,  
And I alone sit lingering here !  
Their very memory is fair and bright,  
And my sad thoughts doth clear.

“ I see them walking in an air of glory,  
Whose light doth trample on my days,  
My days, which are at best but dull and hoary,  
Mere glimmerings and decays.

“ O holy hope, and high humility,  
High as the heavens above !  
These are your walks, and ye have showed  
them me  
To kindle my cold love.

“ He that hath found some fledged bird's nest  
may know,  
At first sight, if the bird be flown ;  
But what fair field or grove he sings in now  
That is to him unknown.

“ And yet as angels, in some brighter dreams,  
Call to the soul, when man doth sleep,  
So some strange thoughts transcend our wonted  
themes,  
And into glory peep.”

HENRY VAUGHAN, 17th Century.

August 29.

THOUGHTS FOR FATHERS.

"A godly home education is one which trains up the child by the earthly to the Heavenly Father.

"That a parent may be as God's representative to his child, he must first be as a child to his God. To teach, he must be taught; and receive that he may give.

"What the father on earth wishes his child to be towards himself, that God wishes the parent to be towards his Father in Heaven.

"Hence children are witnesses for God in the parent's heart, as the parents are for Him in the hearts of their children."

NORMAN MACLEOD.

August 30.

USES OF AFFLICTION.

“Prosperity is the blessing of the Old Testament, adversity the blessing of the New, which carrieth the greater benediction and the clearer revelation of God’s favour.”

BACON.

“Nor do those crosses that seem due to His anger destroy the immutability of His love; since even that anger is an effect of it, proceeding from a fatherly impatience of seeing a spot wiped off in the face He loves too well to see a blemish in it; and from His desire to see His child an object fit for a larger measure of His kindness.”

BOYLE’S “SERAPHIC LOVE.”

On David’s prayer for the life of his child, of whose death Nathan had assured him, Bishop Hall says, “I doubt not, God his Father took it kindly.”

August 31.

IN MEMORIAM.

"DEAREST,

"I return the painful and most touching record concerning darling J—— with many thanks. The dear child is in God's Hands, emphatically so ; perhaps the great unfolding is near at hand : I loved him well, I love him well still, and could fancy I hear his voice.

"I know what a bereaved mother feels, and know that none can cure that sorrow but God. Nor even does it please Him entirely to remove the smart ; but to leave a sense of aching, that evermore the world shall be less loved, and Himself and the better country more.

"Your loving cousin,  
"ELIZA C——."

[The year after these tender lines were penned, "the great unfolding" came to the writer ; the "smart," the "sense of aching," were ended for ever—the "better country" reached.]

September 1.

FAITH.

"Whence is it that believers, who have trusted God for their souls, should yet make a difficulty of trusting Him for their outward man, and so cumber themselves with unprofitable burdens? We should look to our present duty, be diligent in our place, and content with such things as we have; bearing ourselves as becomes the children of such a Father, so rich, wise, bountiful, tender and faithful to us.

"Have therefore your faith exercised, as about the greatest so also about the smallest and commonest matters: use grace, and have grace. It is want of use makes you lame of your right hand, and much using renders it more useful."

ELISHA COLES.

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September 2.

ON THE TRAINING OF CHILDREN.

"Little ones are *always* learning, and we are *always* teaching ; eyes and ears are ever open, and busy minds are drawing their conclusions.

"Happy that mother, or that teacher, of whom the observant ones at home, and the on-looking world without, can alike say, 'Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.'

"Another Voice is saying, 'She hath done what she could.' That same blessed Voice will yet say, 'Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.'"

MRS. PENNEFATHER.

"Contrive but to touch the heart, and the victory is almost sure."

EVANGELICAL CHRISTENDOM.

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**September 3.**

**THOUGHTS OF PEACE.**

“Rest in the thought of the deep and changeless interest which God has in each member of His family, through Jesus His well-beloved Son.

“All is sure, for all is in Christ. He is One with the Father, and One with us. The things that come from a Father’s heart, borne by the pierced hands of Jesus, our loving Brother and Redeemer, can bring no evil to the child.

“Trust still, whatever befall. Let thy mind, thought, imagination, be stayed upon Jesus, and He shall keep thee in perfect peace.”

**AGNES GIBERNE.**

“Many a broken heart abides in unbroken peace.”

“God may cast His children down, but never casts them away.”

N.

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September 4.

CROSSING THE RIVER.

"We each enter Canaan alone. No priestly feet tread the Jordan of death before us ; for they are but pretenders to Divine priestly power who come with professed absolution and viaticum. Stand back, presumptuous men ! stand back from that dark river of death, and let God's pilgrims come to it alone ; alone and yet not alone. Stand aside that they may see Him who commands the river in all its extent, and who has said that He will Himself go with each in crossing. He who liveth and was dead knows the crossing at its deepest and darkest.

"How many years remain to me ? He knoweth. Will the way in future be rougher or smoother ? He knoweth. Shall I be long in passing, or shall I glide as in a sleep into the great eternal world ? He knoweth. And therefore I need not know."

ALEX. RALEIGH.

**September 5.**

**THE HIGHER LIFE.**

"A holy life, spent in the service of God, and in communion with Him, is, without doubt, the most pleasant and comfortable life that any man can live in this world."

**MELANCTHON.**

"If thou art not born again, all thy outward reformation is nought in the sight of God: thou hast shut the door, but the thief is still in the house."

**BOSTON.**

"Give me the eye which can see God in all, and the hand which can serve God with all, and the heart which can bless Him for all."

**SECKER.**

"Many actions, like the Rhone, have two sources, one pure, the other impure."

**"GUESSES AT TRUTH."**

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September 6.

REST IN GOD.

"When I think of probabilities, I should be overwhelmed, unless I knew that I was not to be over anxious about the morrow, or about anything ; but to rest on God for each day's guidance, strength, and blessing. And I getting so old, little time left, and having so many difficulties from within and without ! But the good Master knows all, and He is so good, so patient, so considerate, forbearing, strengthening, overruling. Amen.

"I feel more and more the simplicity and grandeur and truth of Luther's idea of faith ; to be an out and out child, to be nothing, that God may be all ; not only for us, but in us. Heaven would be heaven were it nothing more than its being the finishing of our education by the perfect utterance of 'Our Father.'"

NORMAN MACLEOD.



September 7.

THE INVALID'S PAGE.

“Lord, the waves are breaking o'er me and around ;  
Oft of coming tempest I hear the moaning sound ;  
Here there is no safety, rocks on either hand ;  
'Tis a foreign roadstead, a strange and hostile  
land.

Wherefore should I linger ? Others gone before,  
Long since safe are landed on a friendly shore.  
Now the sailing orders in mercy, Lord, bestow,  
Loose the cable, let me go.

“Lord, the lights are gleaming from the distant  
shore,  
Where no billows threaten, where no tempests roar ;  
Long beloved voices, calling me, I hear—  
O how sweet their summons falls upon mine ear !  
Here are foes and strangers, faithless hearts and  
cold,  
There is fond affection, fondly proved of old,  
Let me haste to join them ! may it not be so ?  
Loose the cable, let me go.

“Hark ! the solemn answer ! Hark ! the promise  
sure.  
Blessed are the servants who to the end endure !  
Yet a little longer tarry and hope on !  
Yet a little longer, weak and weary one !  
More to perfect patience, grow in faith and love,  
More My wisdom, strength, and faithfulness to  
prove ;  
Then the sailing orders the Captain shall bestow—  
Loose the cable, let thee go.”  
Amen.

HYMNS FROM THE LAND OF LUTHER.

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September 8.

LEAVE TO-MORROW WITH GOD.

"Christ is always recalling us to that which lies under our hands. As the Christian's provisions are meted out by the day, so his thoughts are to have the same limit. His anxieties, blessed be God! are to be bounded by the horizon of nightfall.

"Sweet and solemn are those words, I know not whether more sweet or more solemn, 'Take no thought for the morrow, for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself.' We need a deep inner consciousness that the future is wrapped in utter uncertainty, that we can see no further than to what lies under our hand. Do that with all thy might, O man, for it is the business which thy Father hath given thee to do. Do it with all thy might, for thou must work the work of Him that sent thee while it is day."

GOULBURN.

September 9.

BEHIND THE VEIL.

"The impressions of the spirit-world retained by those who, like Lazarus, have come back from it, are secrets which the Bible, like the true earnest book it is, leaves in the custody of death.

"As Stier remarks, the lifting of the great veil by means of individual persons would have been opposed to the whole profoundly planned economy of God."

CULROSS.

"Of any departed friend who is dwelling there we may be certain that he is *himself* at last; his mind, no longer 'pressed down' by the corruptible body. And we may be sure that God kept him in his 'pressed down' condition no longer than was needed to make him fully fit for the good place He always meant for him on high."

J. E. C.

September 10.

#### INFLUENCE OF RELIGION ON DAILY LIFE.

"In his professional as well as in his properly Christian work, you felt his Christianity behind. In his conviction, prayer was a great instrumentality for obtaining blessings which God had given to His Church, and which was to be plied accordingly. . . . And so the end of life came, with a good day's work to show for the working-day that had been allotted him."

#### MR. COWAN'S SERMON ON MR. MACKENZIE'S DEATH.

"No work can in any high sense prosper which is not done with a bright elastic spirit ; and there is no means of keeping the spirit bright and elastic but by keeping it near to God. God has treasure in store for us, even 'such good things as pass man's understanding.' "

GOULBURN.

September 11.

WAIT PATIENTLY.

"If men were to give thanks to God for what He permits them to have, rather than to utter complaints for what He wisely and graciously withholds, He might not unlikely give to them more abundantly, if for no other reason than to increase their gratitude.

"Be not impatient of God; your sorrow is a seed sown. Let God plant your sorrows, and water and till them according to His own husbandry. By-and-by, when you gather their fruit, it will be time to judge His mercy. Trouble is like any other crop; it needs time for growing, for blossoming, and for fruiting."

AIDS TO PRAYER.

"Tired wayfarer, sorrowful burdened pilgrim, look up; the night is long and dreary, but the morn is breaking in the east."

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September 12.

THE BEREAVED MOTHER'S PAGE.

“ I give thee joy, my darling !  
Escaped—set free, set free !  
Thy young life-hours of sorrow  
Wore on, how wearily !  
There is no sorrow yonder  
Where Jesus welcomes thee.

“ I give thee joy, my darling !  
Thy sleep is calm and sweet ;  
Thy bosom heaves no longer  
With painful, fluttering beat.  
Till the glad Easter morning  
Lie still, oh, tired feet !

“ I give thee joy, my darling !  
The weight is off thy breast,  
This world is dark and stormy,  
With Jesus, that is best.  
The last tear-drops have fallen,  
Sweet eyes, now take your rest.

“ I give thee joy, my darling !  
I, left here in the night,  
Can see, beyond the river,  
Thy young brow bathed in light,  
And on me falls the radiance  
Of thy garments shining white.

“ I give thee joy, my darling !  
For Jesus is thy King ;  
And to His blessed presence  
Will all His people bring.  
Where the long-parted gather,  
The Hallelujahs ring.”

E. H.

September 13.

**P R A Y E R.**

"Why such infinite trouble about such infinitesimal trifles? The Lord is at hand. Let that nearness of Christ save you from over-anxiety. 'Be careful for nothing,' but in everything—be it pain or weariness, be it loss or bereavement, be it earthly longing or heavenly aspiration, be it trivial annoyance or heartfelt agony, be it remorse for the past or terror for the future, in everything, by prayer, which is the general outpouring of the soul, and supplication, which is its special entreaty, with thanksgiving, 'let your requests be made known unto God.'

"Do this, and then God's peace shall 'keep,' shall stand sentry over, your hearts, and over every thought that issues from them, in Christ Jesus."

**DR. FARRAR.**

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September 14.

GOOD THINGS TO COME.

"He is far happier now than he ever could be here, for he is *at rest*."

A. R.

"I have great belief in, and love for, the Divine law of compensation. I am sure that all he suffered here is more than made up for now."

MARION W.

"When the journey lies behind us,  
All gone through,  
Some sweet eventide shall find us  
Sleeping too."

SARAH DOUDNEY.

"Methought He laid His Hand upon my head,  
And whispered, 'Go in peace, and sin no more.'  
And the words seemed to linger in the air.  
Whether an angel caught them up or not  
I know not, but they seemed to float around me,  
'Sin no more, weary pilgrim, sin no more,  
No more at all for ever, sin no more.'"

E. H. BICKERSTETH.

**September 15.**

**OUR PART IN LIFE'S DRAMA.**

"Life is God's great drama. Thou knowest that the Mind which organised it is Wisdom ; thou knowest that it is Love. Then of its ending grandly, wisely, nobly, lovingly, infinitely well, for them who love God, there can be no doubt. But remember you are an actor in it: not a puppet, but an actor. Learn your part well."

**GOULBURN.**

"What have we to think of? Not splendid nobleness ; but the far humbler lesson to be courteous ; to be considerate ; to be forbearing ; to be more kind, thoughtful, fair towards those who are bound to us by so many ties ; to check the bitter sarcasm, to crush within us the angry thought. 'Whatever any one does or says,' said the great pure Roman emperor, 'I must be good,' as if the emerald were always saying 'Whatever any one does or says, I must be emerald, and keep my colour.'"

**DR. FARRAR.**

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September 16.

WHAT THE FAITH OF PARENTS MAY  
ACCOMPLISH.

"Amram and Jochebed were the faithful parents of a faithful child. They did their part, and committed the rest to the Lord. That Hebrew mother gave up her dear little babe to God, and lo, ere the sun had set, God had given it back to her!

"In trusting God's promise they trusted also His Providence. It was a chain of events, and all the links were links of Providence. When God will work, who can hinder Him?

"It was the full and confident committal of their child to God's good keeping.

"In that darkest hour, under the most desperate circumstances, was the Providence of God set forth for them that put their trust in Him."

MAGUIRE.



September 17.

GOD'S CARE.

"God orders all for the true advantage of His people, and makes all different lines and ways concentrate in their highest good ; all to meet in that, how opposite soever in appearance (see Rom. viii. 28).

"Have a particular confidence of His good will towards thee, and undertaking for thee. Now, if this be the question, the promise resolves thee ; trust Him and He takes on the trust, and there is no other.

"Cast on Him thy care, and He takes it on ; He cares for thee. His royal word is engaged not to give thee the slip, if thou do really lay it upon Him. Apply thyself more simply to thy duty, lamely as it may be ; halt on, and believe that He is gracious and pities thee ; and lay the care of bringing thee through upon Him. Lie not complaining and arguing, but up and be doing, and the Lord shall be with thee."

LEIGHTON.

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September 18.

THOUGHTS OF COMFORT FOR MOURNERS.

"Now that his soul has escaped like a bird out of prison, he may be *nearer* to you in a thousand ways than ever before."

J. E. C.

"Do not let a sad thought cloud the memory of him who is now so much to be envied. All your cares for him have subsided into *perfect peace*; a truer, brighter sense of his being *yours* than you could ever have had before; a joy inexpressible in the prospect of seeing him again, as you never could even picture him here."

E. O.

"What though he standeth at no earthly altar,  
Yet in white raiment, on the golden floor,  
Where love is perfect, and no step can falter,  
He serveth as a Priest for evermore.  
Though tears will fall, we bless Thee, O our  
Father,  
For the dear one for ever with the blest,  
And wait the Easter dawn when Thou shalt  
gather  
Thine own, long parted, to their endless  
rest."



September 19.

“WITHOUT CAREFULNESS.”

“Let my soul roll itself on God, and adventure there all its weight. He bears greater matters.”

LEGH RICHMOND.

On a bird going to roost. “This little fellow has chosen his shelter, and is quietly rocking himself to sleep, without a care for to-morrow’s lodgings, calmly holding by his little twig, and leaving God to think for him. I have had many things in my hands, and have lost them all; but whatever I have been enabled to leave in God’s Hands I still possess.”

LUTHER.

“How often do we fret and distress ourselves about difficulties which never arise; and are full of perplexity about the way we shall overcome obstacles which in the end we never meet.”

September 20.

ON AFFLICITION.

“The bitter before the sweet makes the sweet the sweeter.”

JOHN BUNYAN.

“There are two classes of misfortune over which it is not worth while to lament ; those which can be remedied, and those which cannot.”

ARCHBISHOP WHATELY.

“Christ is preparing us by His Spirit, and by all the trials of this life, sent to wean our hearts from earth, for that time when we shall know, in the fulness of resurrection glory, the fulness of heaven’s blessedness.

“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not regret having been cast into the fire, where they lost their bonds and found companionship with their Saviour.”

DR. BAYLEE.

September 21.

THOUGHTS OF COMFORT.

"Prayer is the key of Heaven, and faith is the hand that turns it. We cry, 'Abba, Father.' We cry—there is the fervency; 'Abba, Father'—there is the faith. The tree of promise will not drop its fruit unless shaken by the hand of prayer. A faithless prayer is a fruitless prayer."

WATSON.

"Think of Christ as standing close by thee, with a Hand outstretched for thy support as soon as ever thou lookest towards Him.

"Remember that it is not you who are to conquer, but He who is to conquer in you; let your eyes wait upon Him. No man ever fell in this attitude of expectant faith.

"The cheerless outward aspect in a season of temptation is nothing; there are hidden agencies at work which in due season shall bring forth the bloom of a spiritual Spring."

GOLDBURN.

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September 22.

ON UNGOVERNED THOUGHTS.

"Study to gain the habit of attention to present duty. If I were asked why one person is dextrous and quick, and another clumsy and disordered, I should reply that the former had, and the latter had not, the habit of minding what he is about. Watch your thoughts diligently. When dangerous thoughts arise, instantly call in other feelings and other thoughts to your help.

"Hasten to turn your mind to whatever you may have formerly found to be of power to compose and harmonise. Fly to the Scriptures, to prayer, to business, or to society and innocent conversation, to get rid of yourself, and extinguish the fatal spark in your bosom.

"Lastly, and above all things, do all this in the name and faith of Christ."

BISHOP HEBER.

**September 23.**

**R E S T.**

“ Rest, weary soul !  
The penalty is borne, the ransom paid,  
For all thy sins a full atonement made.  
Strive not to do thyself what Christ hath done,  
Claim the free gift, and make the joy thine own :  
No more by pangs of guilt and fear distract,  
                Rest, sweetly rest.

“ Rest, weary heart !  
From all thy silent griefs and secret pain,  
Thy profitless regrets, and longings vain ;  
Wisdom and love have ordered all the past,  
All shall be blessedness and peace at last :  
Cast off the cares that have so long oppressed.  
                Rest, sweetly rest.

“ Rest, weary head !  
Lie down to slumber in the peaceful tomb !  
Light from above has broken through its gloom ;  
Here, in the place where once thy Saviour lay,  
Where He shall wake thee on a future day,  
Like tired child upon its mother’s breast,  
                Rest, sweetly rest.

“ Rest, spirit, rest !  
In the green pastures of the heavenly shore,  
Where sin and sorrow can approach no more,  
With all the flock by the Good Shepherd fed,  
Beside the streams of life eternal led,  
For ever, with thy God and Saviour blest,  
                Rest, sweetly rest.”

**FROM “ THOUGHTFUL HOURS,” BY H. L. L.**

September 24.

LOOK UP.

"Read over, think over, pray over the promises, till your mind is full of them: they *will* bring peace. But be careful as your heart gets more comfortable, about turning it in upon itself.

"Keep your eyes up, your heart fixed on the Word. Then, if that pang which you rightly call a 'fiery dart' of the Wicked one, come, it will fall off, leaving you unharmed.

"If you take it up, and turn it over to find out what it is, you will be 'wounded with the cruel wound of an enemy.' Your shield can then be of no service to you, for the poison has already entered into your soul and 'drunk up your spirit.' Hold fast, then, by the promises of God, and 'settle it in your heart' that He will deliver you and help you, *because* you trust in Him."

September 25.

THE USES OF SUFFERING.

"God has many sharp-cutting instruments, and rough files, for the polishing of His jewels; and those He especially loves, and means to make the most resplendent, He hath oftenest His tools upon."

"Suffering beautifies the thought, and softens the heart of him who endures it rightly. Who can tell what wondrous things are involved in the mystery of the dispensation yet to come? Who can say with how just an adaptation to its end the suffering of every man is fitted, that he may be prepared and qualified for that which shall devolve upon him hereafter?"

CHURCH OF ENGLAND QUARTERLY.

"Faith lies at anchor in the midst of the waves, and *believes* the accomplishment of the promises through all overturning confusions. Methinks I lie becalmed in His bosom. As Luther said in such a case, 'I am not much concerned, let Christ see to it.'"

September 26.

“PEACE, PERFECT PEACE.”

“Peace, perfect peace ! in this dark world of sin ?  
The blood of Jesus whispers peace within.

“Peace, perfect peace, by thronging duties  
pressed ?  
To do the will of Jesus,—this is rest.

“Peace, perfect peace, with sorrows surging  
round ?  
On Jesus’ bosom nought but calm is found.

“Peace, perfect peace, with loved ones far away ?  
In Jesus’ keeping we are safe, and they.

“Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown ?  
Jesus we know, and He is on the Throne.

“Peace, perfect peace, death shadowing us and  
ours ?  
Jesus has vanquished death and all its powers.

“It is enough—earth’s struggles soon shall cease,  
And Jesus bring us to Heaven’s perfect peace.”

“Amid earth’s battle-cry peace is ours ; such  
peace as the world’s softest smile cannot give,  
nor can her most withering frown take it away.  
Such peace may we all have grace to seek from  
Him who alone can bestow it, Jesus the Prince  
of Peace.”

CHARLOTTE ELIZABETH.

September 27.

THOUGHTS OF THE FUTURE.

"There is some remainder of life to us all ; perhaps a large portion of it, perhaps a short fragment. Longer or shorter there lies in that future a profound and solemn interest.

"As to the past, our thought falls over it, at one time in sad and even remorseful memory ; at another time (may we not hope ?) in thankful acknowledgment of some substantial good by God's great mercy gotten or done. But as to the future, what shall our thought be of that ? What *can* our thought be of the wholly unknown ? And yet there is one thing about it which *is* known. Before us, ever and ever, in all the turns and in all the straightness of those untrodden paths, is the ark of the covenant of the Lord of the whole earth ; the constant presence of the holy and most merciful Father. There is no true life apart from the love of God."

THE REV. DAVID WRIGHT.

September 28.

FAITH AND PATIENCE.

"Whatever may be your wishes on the subject which makes you anxious, refer them to God in prayer, using the simplest and most direct language, not asking Him absolutely to bring them about, but simply letting Him know them, and begging Him to deal in the matter as seems best to His wisdom and love. *Leave* them with Him ; drop them altogether."

GOULBURN.

"An affectionate, confiding, tender faith, habitually exercised, would save us half the annoyances of life, for it would lift us above the reach of them."

AIDS TO PRAYER.

"Little do ye know the drift, whether of God's acts or delays ; and ye know as much as ye are worthy."

BISHOP HALL.

September 29.

"HE GIVETH HIS BELOVED SLEEP."

"Star-woven curtains God draws round  
His children as they dream,  
Light angels tread the holy ground,  
Bright messengers of love surround  
And watch and ward for Him."

HINE.

"Sleep soft, beloved, we sometimes say,  
But have no power to charm away  
Sad dreams that through the eyelids creep ;  
But never doleful dream again  
Shall break the happy slumber, when  
He giveth His beloved sleep."

ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING.

"He shall one day deliver all the divided,  
that have fallen asleep in Him, to their beloved,  
for personal recognition, and for a special  
fellowship of joy, amid the universal gladness  
and communion of love which shall then fill  
all hearts."

TRENCH.

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September 30.

IN MEMORIAM.

Lady Jane Grey, three days before her execution, wrote: "I am prepared to receive patiently my death in any manner it will please the queen to appoint. True it is my flesh shudders, as is natural to frail mortality ; but my spirit will spring rejoicingly into the eternal light, where I hope the mercy of God will receive it."

"I now, on the eve of my departure, declare to you, and earnestly pray that you may hereafter live and act on the conviction, that health is a great blessing; competence obtained by honourable industry is a great blessing; and a great blessing it is to have kind, faithful, and loving friends and relations; but the greatest of all blessings, as it is the most ennobling of all privileges, is to be a Christian."

COLERIDGE'S DYING WORDS.

October 1.

EJACULATORY PRAYER.

"Ejaculatory prayer is the Christian's breath, his secret path to his hiding-place, his express to Heaven in circumstances of difficulty and peril; it is the tuner of all his religious feelings, it is his sling and stone with which he slays the enemy. Ejaculatory prayer is like the rope of a belfry, the bell in one room, and the rope in another. Perhaps the bell may not be heard in the apartment where the rope is, but it is heard in its own apartment. Moses laid hold of the rope, and pulled it hard, on the shore of the Red Sea, and though no one heard or knew anything of it in the lower chamber, the bell rang loudly in the upper one, till the whole place was moved, and the Lord said, 'Wherefore criest thou unto Me? Speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward.'

WILLIAMS OF WERN.

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October 2.

O U R   H O M E.

"Fancy this beautiful earth without sin, sorrow, pain, death. Does not this, the merely negative side of the matter, seem nearly enough? Then add the positive side, the fulness of joy, and pleasures for evermore; the full draught of satisfaction, which ever eludes our eager lips here; and grudge no more waiting and watching and warring, if at the end of so brief a probation there awaits you that infinite rest and perfect satisfaction which your Lord has won for you."

"Hush! for another delicious thought comes surging in a wave of subdued music over our soul. They have gone before us. When we have passed the meridian of our years we tell over the rosary of our hearts' dear remembrances, and every bead recalls to us the name of some household saint, not lost but gone before. And in the 'Land o' the Leal' these will be restored to us again."

THE AUTHOR OF "THE HARVEST OF  
A QUIET EYE."

October 3.

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S HELP.

"Every time that the Holy Spirit enables us to dethrone an idol, to bear suffering, to resist temptation, to love the Loving One, we are gaining ground in holiness. Edward Bickersteth says: 'Think only of present duties, the moment's work; our life is given to us in moments, and we shall have joys for each.' Strength is promised according to your day, not according to your morrow. Before you begin your work, take it first to God, implore His blessing; ask Him for a fresh diligent spirit—then put your whole might into it, the might that you have borrowed from a Mightier than yourself; for this is the secret of real work. Do it as if your Master were standing before you. Do not offer to God the blind, and the lame, and the maimed things of your mind, but offer to Him your wakeful rejoicing *present* energies."

FROM "PLENTY TO DO, AND HOW TO  
DO IT."

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October 4.

CHRIST OUR KING.

"'I will be thy King.' He knows our need of a King. He knows the hopeless anarchy not only of a world, but of a heart, without a king. Have we not felt that we really want a strong Hand over our hearts? Has there not been an echo in our souls of the old cry 'Give me a king'? a cry that nothing can still but this Divine promise, '*I* will be thy King.' And now if the old desolate wail of a kingless heart comes up in an hour of faithless forgetfulness, His word comes like a royal clarion, 'Why dost thou cry out aloud? Is there no King in thee?' How glad we are that He Himself is our King! For we are so sure that in this inner kingdom which *we* cannot govern at all, He is 'able even to subdue all things unto Himself.'"

FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL.

October 5.

TO-MORROW LEFT WITH GOD.

"Take no thought, no anxious, distressing, harassing thought, for the morrow ; suffer not your minds to be torn asunder by doubt or apprehension. Consider rather what is the *present* will of God ; and rest satisfied and content without anticipating evils which may never arrive. Do not heighten your present sorrows by a morbid imagination.

"You know not what a day may bring forth. The future is likely to be *better* than you expect, as well as worse. The real victory of Christians arises from attention to *present duty* ; this carries them from strength to strength."

ROBERT HALL.

"God, who made all things very good, is sure to do all things very well."

N.

October 6.

CROSSING THE RIVER.

“ Saint after saint on earth  
Has lived and loved and died,  
And as they left us one by one  
We laid them side by side.  
We laid them down to sleep,  
But not in hope forlorn ;  
We laid them but to ripen there  
Till the last glorious morn.

“ Crossing with Christ the chasm,  
As it were by a single thread,  
Fording with Him the river,  
Christ leading as He hath led ;  
Then up the heights of glory,  
Unfollowed by death or sin,  
Swift through the pearl-white portal  
Thy feet have entered in.”

WAYFARING HYMNS.

“ Who would not endure sorrow to gain  
enduring joy ? ”

N.

October 7.

"OUR VINES HAVE TENDER GRAPES."

"What are these tender grapes? Love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, the spirit of true filial prayer, humility and brokenness of heart in the remembrance of sin, a longing after the image of Christ, the unselfish kindness that 'seeketh not her own,' the heavenliness that looks up to a Father's house, the praising thankful heart that will bless God at all times —these, and every zealous effort to do good, every loving word and deed, are all tender grapes, very beautiful and very precious.

"To bear these pleasant fruits we must abide in Christ, cling to Him, depend upon Him, rely upon Him, day by day and hour by hour."

THE REV. G. EVERARD.

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October 8.

THOUGHTS FOR THE SORROWFUL.

"You are passing through deep trial, but God will make it surely 'work together for good.' What a blessing that He not only gives us tokens of His love in rich continued mercies, but still more in chastening, and afflictions: 'As many as I *love* I rebuke and chasten.' If we could really and practically cast all our cares on God, how light and cheerful our hearts would be even in the midst of anxieties! Faith has mighty power to sustain and cheer in sorrow, weakness, weariness, or pain!"

"It is only when we look entirely above second causes, to a Father's directing Hand, that we can rest fully satisfied that all is well."

"Those whom God loves He takes to pieces, and then puts them together again."

ROMAINE.

October 9.

**GLAD SERVICE.**

"That is a striking combination in 2 Tim. iii. 2, 'unthankful, unholy,' and it will ever be found that the more thankfulness the more holiness, the more happiness. Rise up, then, O believer, from your despondency; emerge from the dark shadow, do no more dishonour to your joy-loving Lord. Many forget that the more they joy in God the more cause for joy He will give them; that the more they praise Him for strength, the more strength they will receive."

**"PLenty to Do, AND How to Do It."**

"God's gracious biddings are effectual enabling."

**WILCOX.**

"God counts all the steps we take to the throne of grace, and all the minutes of our waiting."

October 10.

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

"It requires more grace to hear than to preach, and still greater grace to believe and to do. When the principle of Divine grace is active and lively, it teaches us to win by suffering, to save by losing, and to live by dying. Upon every creature comfort God inscribes, when He gives it, 'To be taken away at pleasure.' "

CADOGAN.

"Divine consolations are then nearest to us when human assistances are farthest from us."

CAVE.

"That state is surely best which keeps you dependent on God, and thankful to Him, and so you will find it in the end."

HUNTINGTON.

October 11.

THE VALUE OF PRAYER.

"Dr. Heim, a Prussian physician, remarked to a friend, 'Unable to help myself in this necessity (a great pecuniary loss), I took refuge in the Almighty, and prayed right earnestly for strength, courage, cheerfulness, and peace. It was as if God Himself said to me "Be no longer foolish, and stop these lamentations, otherwise I shall show Myself very strange to thee. I have the keys to all money coffers, and I can make good the loss to thee in course of time. Therefore be now of good courage, and from this time forth cheerfully follow thy vocation." I have promised this, I have forgotten my trouble, it is under my feet; and I am again happy in my God. This is what earnest, believing prayer can do.'"

FROM THE "LEISURE HOUR."

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October 12.

G O D ' S   C A R E .

"Augustine says: 'There is a day coming when, both vessel and cargo safe and not a hair of our heads hurt, we shall reach the haven of our desire.' Trust the Divine faithfulness in the dark, trust when sight and sense fail to trace.

"My whole life is a plan arranged by Him ; every little apparent contingency, as well as every momentous turn and crisis-hour, forms part of that plan, 'a thought of God.'

"He *pondereth* all our goings. I will help thee is enough for all the emergencies of the present and the contingencies of the future."

MACDUFF'S "THOUGHTS OF GOD."

"God often enlightens our eyes by lighting up our path."

N.



October 13.

I TIM. VI. 12.

“ Fighting the battle of life !  
With a weary heart and head ;  
For in the midst of the strife,  
The banners of joy are fled.

“ Fled, and gone out of sight,  
When I thought they were so near,  
And the music of hope this night  
Is dying away on my ear.

“ Fighting the whole day long,  
With a very tired hand,  
With only my armour strong,  
The shelter in which I stand.

“ Only the Lord can hear,  
Only the Lord can see  
The struggle within how dark and drear,  
Though quiet the outside be.

“ Fighting alone to-night !  
With what a sinking heart ;  
Lord Jesus, in the fight  
Oh ! stand not Thou apart !

“ The word of old was true,  
And its truth shall never cease—  
‘ The Lord shall fight for you,  
And ye shall hold your peace.’

“ Lord, fix my eyes upon Thee,  
And fill my heart with Thy love ;  
And keep my soul till the shadows flee,  
And the light breaks forth above.”

FROM RYLE'S “ HYMNS FOR THE  
CHURCH ON EARTH.”

October 14.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

"Walking on the mountains, I met a shepherd leading home his flock, with a lamb on his shoulder. 'Is it hurt?' I inquired. 'No—not that; it is just weary and done, so I took it to rest.' Is not that like some of us—'weary and done?' Hear Him say, 'Come unto Me, and I will give you rest.' Heaven is *Home*, a settled dwelling-place. There no more tired hearts and weary heads."

MRS. CHARLESWORTH.

"Gracious Friend! how Thou hast weighed our needs! How Thou hast made provision! It is enough! Thou hast not left us orphans. And now let us go and do Him better service than ever, until the day of labour is over, and the shades of evening fall. The Christian sees the land afar off, and is fully satisfied that *there he shall be.*"

HULLETT.



October 15.

**STRENGTH FOR THE DAY.**

“What often seems difficult enough in the thinking comes pretty easy in the doing. It must be so, for our Lord is always at hand to help us to lift the burden He puts before us for the time, although He often does not see best to show us beforehand how it will be.” “Our God has stored up a blessing in every piece of work He gives us to do, and in every trial that He calls us to bear. Take all the burden that God lays upon you, but take good heed that you do not put weight of your own to it.”

C. D. BELL.

“We measure troubles by our own power to meet them ; we should measure them by Christ's.”

THE REV. A. BROWN.

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October 16.

GOD'S LESSONS TO CHILDREN.

"Here is a stone that marks the resting-place of one who was a little worker. He had thought of God as the great Father of the world ; he had looked to Jesus as the Good Shepherd. He had begun to feel a strange power in the cross, which was drawing him away from sin, and from little selfish ways.... A little serious thought, a little faith, a fluttering of love in the heart, some tiny steps of following after the great Master ; nothing, as some would say, to make a finished life. You are far mistaken. That little workman will never need to be ashamed ; in his simple faith he found the Rock of Ages ; in his wondering love he soared upwards to the Fatherhood of God, and when the home-call reached him, he was ready."

FROM "QUIET RESTING-PLACES,"  
ALEX. RALEIGH.

October 17.

GO FORWARD.

"Things perish while we are using them; scenes fade while we are looking at them; yes, even pains are dying out while we are enduring them."

"The days of the pillar and the cloud have passed only to the outward eye of sense. Faith still sees the mysterious column in front, and, whether in going or staying, is at peace. We would encourage God's people to repose in the ordering of their Father that is above."

"We can never go out of our own place of simple following without the ensuing of evil, or confusion of some kind. There is a great difference between self-made and providential trials; in the first we throw ourselves out of the sympathy of Christ; in the second we may be sure that that sympathy is ours."

POWER.

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October 18.

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S TEACHING.

"Self-restraint and self-mastery, not gained without effort and pain—the power to stop in any pursuit, and say 'No farther; what is right for me ends *here*'—in this lies the secret of real happiness, of capacity of continued enjoyment and progressive activity, the secret of all healthy advance morally, intellectually, spiritually. May He who gave Himself a sacrifice for us so help us by His good Spirit that life may bring to us day by day an ever clearer likeness to Himself, an ever happier activity in His service, an ever readier willingness to witness for His truth and right, and thus an ever riper fitness for the time when, having suffered with Him here, we may hope with the good hope that maketh not ashamed, to be glorified together with Him in His eternal kingdom."

STORY.



October 19.

**GLIMPSES OF OUR HOME.**

"The muffled harp here, the golden harp there. Here the ocean, swept by storm and tempest; yonder the crystal sea, unruffled with one wave. There are signals of peace hung out from the walls of Heaven; the lights of Home glimmering in the distance to cheer our footsteps.

"Ere you know it the darkness will be past, the true Light shining; the whisper of faith in the nether valley, 'Believe, believe,' will be exchanged for angel voices. Meanwhile Jesus lives, His people may dispel their misgivings. Omnipotence treads the waves."

**MACDUFF.**

"Only a few more shadows, and He will come."

**FAMILY TREASURY.**

October 20.

PEACE.

"The beginning of true peace is the casting of the spirit, worn with the burden, soiled with the dust of life's friendless journey, on One who has offered, and is infinitely able, to sustain it. Calmly as the midnight voyager sleeps, whilst under watchful guidance the vessel bears him onwards, so calmly does the believer commit himself and his fates for time and for eternity to the unslumbering Providence of God ; ever retaining in his spirit the unanxious quietness of one who knows that results are not in his hand but God's. What relief to pass out of self into God, and to stay our feebleness on the everlasting Arm, in the unquestioning reliance of a little child."

CAIRD.

October 21.

THE GUIDING HAND.

"For one thing only, Lord, dear Lord, I plead,  
Lead me aright.

Though strength should falter, and though  
heart should bleed,  
Through peace to light.

"I do not ask, O Lord, that Thou shouldst shed  
Full radiance here.

Give but a ray of peace that I may tread  
Without a fear.

"I do not ask my cross to understand,  
My way to see.

Better in darkness just to feel Thy Hand,  
And follow Thee."

MISS A. A. PROCTER.

"O it is safe to commit all to Him, and as far as possible to *un-will* ourselves, that our own wills may be absorbed and swallowed up in His; the only standard of good and right, and true and wise."

J. BICKERSTETH.

Prayer.

Prayer—Answered.

"*Thou canst be comforted by prayer;*  
an answer comes to the child. No pro-  
tection, sympathy, suggestion, can go up if  
we have not the Name of our Father,  
communicated with some faith of blessing.

Mrs. Charnwood.

"*Children have faith more especially than*  
in the Bible. This, until it is the fact  
God's activity and influence in human life.  
Did you ever, under the pressure of a  
want, go to God and say, 'Then, Father,  
help me, give me this and I will  
have your prayer answered?'

October 23.

**UP AND BE DOING.**

"It has been well said that what makes life dreary to many is the want of *motive*. He whom 'the love of Christ constraineth' to faithful persevering work for Him, may sometimes be sorrowful ; dreary he *cannot* be."

"The Divine hope of moral recovery is pregnant with the energy that fulfils it."

"DANIEL DERONDA."

"Your talent is not one thing, but many—those parts of your character which give you power, influence, be it influence over a little child only ; your geniality, your cheerfulness, your sympathy, your business powers."

HART.

"Let not the roll of life's waves only lull thy dreams."

N.

October 24.

STEPPING HEAVENWARD.

“All life is the ascent to God’s throne.  
Every time you overcome self, every time you  
quiet anxiety, every time you find God,—you  
take a step.”

HART.

“Think on what a height God is, think  
to what a height Christ’s love reaches! and  
that every real prayer is a step towards that  
height.”

THE REV. W. G. LONGDEN.

“Only God knows how God hates sin.”

FROM A SERMON PREACHED AT  
COPPENHALL.

“All our hope is placed in Thee,  
Miserere Domine.”

WORDSWORTH.

“Count not thy way secure till thou dost  
walk on the sea of glass.”

N.

October 25.

THOUGHTS OF COMFORT.

“‘He may lead thee about,’ but He will not lead thee wrong. Unutterable tenderness is the characteristic of all His dealings; He can enter into the innermost depths of your need. Leave the future to His providing. How have seeming difficulties melted away! Tried believer, has He *ever* failed thee?

“Every wave is numbered between you and the haven. Here we have but the lodging of a wayfarer turning aside to tarry for the brief night of earth. Once within the Father’s house we are there for ever. Try to compose yourself to sleep with the thought ‘soon to be in heaven, and that for ever and ever.’”

MACDUFF.

October 26.

THE SUFFERER'S PAGE.

"I look forward to the very great happiness he will have with Jesus ; and even now I doubt not that He whose name is Love, and who has made life a happy thing, even when we cannot conceive it to be so, gives him many a sweet pleasure."

C. WHITE.

"The gold of the sanctuary must be tried before it is accepted ; and is thrown into the fire, not because it is of no value, but because it is so precious."

LADY POWERSCOURT.

"'Jesus Christ loves you,' said the son of Sir James Mackintosh to his dying father. The reply was 'Jesus Christ—Love—the same thing.'"

"No suffering, no sanctity. Unsanctified, unsaved."

N.

October 27.

QUIET OF THE HEART.

“Joy dearer far,  
Comes to me often in the ceaseless flow  
Of week-day cares, amid earth’s din and jar,  
When for a moment’s breathing-time I pause,  
Saying, ‘O Master, bless ;’ and lo ! the while  
He stands beside me, and my spirit draws  
A heaven of rest and gladness from His smile.  
Yet never is His presence half so sweet,  
As when the storms of sorrow o’er us meet,  
And we, with bleeding heart and baffled will,  
‘Faint yet pursuing,’ struggle to His feet,  
And lay our souls before Him, and are still.”

FAMILY TREASURY.

“Let every man, when shot with an arrow  
from God’s quiver, say, ‘I must bear it in-  
evitably ; and I will, by God’s grace, do it  
nobly.’”

BISHOP TAYLOR.

October 28.

BEHIND THE VEIL.

"We speak of 'the shadow of death;' it is only the shadow which falls on the portico as we stand for a moment knocking at the longed-for gate; the next, a Father's voice of welcome says, 'Son, thou art ever with Me.'"

MACDUFF.

"What a sight of joy will it be to behold your loved one, not as you remember him here, but as he stands in his Saviour's presence, adorned, beautified, perfected, as that Saviour's love in its lavish bounty will make him. May you have great joy in the hope of that meeting! Who is alone that has such memories and a hope so glad!"

C. WHITE.

"He is not dead whose holy mind  
Lifts thine on high,  
To live in hearts we leave behind  
Is not to die."



October 29.

WORKING FOR CHRIST.

“That heart—you can make nothing of it yourself—leave it to Christ, in quiet dependence upon His grace.

“He who tries to infuse the spirit of true religion into his work, will do it earnestly; he will throw all his powers of heart and soul into it; not doing it mechanically, but calling his nobler faculties into exercise in the doing of it.

“That elasticity of mind which is the spring and nerve of duty, is gone from a disappointed man. He is a stranger to the bright cheerfulness which characterizes the Christian, who knows that no one ever sought to please our Heavenly Master, without succeeding and being over-abundantly recompensed.”

GOULBURN.

October 30.

REST IN GOD.

"I began to have some dim idea of what it would be to be able, in all scenes, trials, dangers, distresses, temptations, and pains of life, to be calm enough to feel that round all our restlessness flows God's rest! to be able to merge all hopes, fears, doubts and dreads, in a perfect unfailing trust in Him who makes 'all things work together for good to them that love Him.'"

FROM *HOUSEHOLD WORDS*.

"A cheerful expecter of the best hath a fountain of joy within him."

"Ask for good and have it, for thy Friend would see thee happy."

TUPPER.

"Every cloud has a silver lining, and some are edged with gold."

October 31.

IN MEMORIAM.

"' *You take me where I am going'* are sweet words to think of as the last you heard from your little one. I look back on my early remembrance of him, and think of the suffering life his has been ; but you are comforted in knowing that his loving Saviour has had His Eye on him, through many a weary day. Our loving, sympathising Saviour can enter into our individual sorrows as none other can. The first *break* is always solemn ; Jesus is near, transplanting."

MRS. A. T.

"Doubtless he realised the truth of those beautiful words, 'Death is not difficult, less difficult than life.'"

"He can never know disappointment in that immeasurable wealth of bliss on which his eyes were opened when they had looked their last on earth."

E. O.

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November 1.

THEY HAVE ENTERED INTO PEACE.

“Do you think your daughter lost when she is but sleeping in the bosom of the Almighty? Think her not absent who is in such a Friend’s house. Is she lost to you who is found to Christ? He is an ill debtor who payeth that which he borroweth with a grudge. Prepare yourself; you are nearer your daughter this day than yesterday.”

RUTHERFORD.

“Amid all the business and cares of life, it is very comforting to turn sometimes to the remembrance of those happy ones who were once our companions in life’s busy path, but Who have entered interest, and are with Him whom they so faithfully served and loved on earth.”

November 2.

GLIMPSES OF OUR HOME.

"Religion is an exotic here ; it is not naturalised to a clime like this, and it never can be. Its flowers can bloom in fulness only in the land from whence the root comes, and that is Heaven.

"It is only gleams and glimpses we can have here, and these oft dimmed and darkened ; only buds and blossoms, and these hardly holding their own in an unfriendly soil. Then, for these very reasons, let us all the more value our Sundays, and sanctuaries, and services, and means of grace ; they are gleams of sunshine while they last, communications from the great Fatherland, the communion of saints above and below, the tuning of our hearts to their harps, and thus singing the Lord's song even in a strange land. Religion is a pilgrim here, but the land belongs to it."

MAGUIRE.

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November 3.

THE INVALID'S PAGE.

"‘As thy days, so shall thy strength be.’ This text certainly is elastic enough to meet all emergencies. When our Heavenly Father says this to His trusting, believing child, it is sufficient, and we seem to have nothing else to do than to commit ourselves peacefully into His Hands, who has promised that we never shall be tempted above that we are able.

"He who brings His people into trouble will surely deliver them out of it. It is our happy privilege to be without anxiety, to be ‘careful for nothing,’ but ‘in everything to make known our requests’ to a loving Father; who invites us to take to Him the smallest anxieties that have power to make us uneasy."

November 4.

THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS.

"In training the young, the great difficulty is to hold the golden mean; to keep things in their right places, so that body, soul, and spirit may each have their full and healthy development."

"You pray, expect your prayers to be answered. Work in love, and work also in hope. God is on your side, ready to help, and to heal, and to efface. The dew falls and the blossom opens *silently*; is it not often so with us? Our despondency is deepest when help is nearest; we seem forgotten, and all the while God is bowing down His ear and listening. Hope becomes as sure and firm a thing as faith, when it is fed by His promises."

"THE Two VOCATIONS."

November 5.

ON BORROWING TROUBLE.

"We are called upon to 'rejoice in hope.' It is a sad mistake to anticipate disappointment. Strength is promised in the day of trouble; we have to meet it alone if we are so unwise as to forecast it.

'Strength is promised, strength is given,  
When the heart by God is riven.  
But foredate the day of woe,  
And alone thou bear'st the blow.'

It is not easy for an ardent spirit to rest submissive in doubt and uncertainty, but this is a lesson which we are sometimes required to learn."

"Fruitless thinking is just so much waste of that mental and spiritual energy, every atom of which you need for your spiritual progress. Shut the door on a fruitless anxiety at once."

GOULBURN.



November 6.

**HOW MUCH OWEST THOU?**

“ When this passing world is done,  
When has sunk yon glaring sun,  
When we stand with Christ in glory,  
Looking o'er life's finished story,  
Then, Lord, shall I fully know—  
Not till then—how much I owe.

“ When I stand before the throne,  
Dressed in beauty not my own,  
When I see Thee as Thou art,  
Love Thee with unsinning heart,  
Then, Lord, shall I fully know—  
Not till then—how much I owe.

“ When the songs of Heaven I hear,  
Loud as thunders to the ear,  
Loud as many waters' noise,  
Sweet as harp's melodious voice,  
Then, Lord, shall I fully know—  
Not till then—how much I owe.”

R. M. MCHEYNE.

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November 7.

ON UNNECESSARY SCRUPLES.

"Needless scruples are bad things, and cause great difficulties ; but we should take care that our object is unselfish and simply upright. The sacrifice of selfishness is recorded in Heaven, and God does not let His children be losers by it. Our constant prayer, when a scruple or a perplexity arises, should be that our minds may be brought into such a state that we may be led to do the will of God. 'Teach me Thy way.'"

M. A. C.

"Am I now fully trusting, not doubtingly groping ? quietly waiting, not impatiently looking out ? leaving the matter with Him, not taking it into my own hands ?

"What burdeneth, distresseth, disquieteth my soul ? In respect of these things, and not in a general or vague sense, will I trust in the Lord."

EDERSHEIM.

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November 8.

HOW TO DO GOOD.

"The grand secret (worth all the others together, and without which all the others are worth nothing, or less) for inculcating and teaching virtues and graces, is that a man honestly, and with more and more of silent sincerity, have them himself, lodged there in the silent deeps of his being. They will not fail to shine through, and be not only visible but undeniable in whatever he is led to say or to do; and every hour of the day he will, consciously and unconsciously, find good means of teaching them. This is the grand indispensable requisite; this present, the rest is very certain to follow; the rest is mere matter of detail, depending on speciality of circumstance, which a man's own common sense, if he is in earnest towards his aim, will instruct him in."

CARLYLE.

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November 9.

THOUGHTS OF COMFORT.

“The only way in which it is possible for us to take the comfort of those comfortable words of Holy Scripture which invite us to trust everything to God, is by heartily asking God that they may be carried home to us with the irresistible demonstration of the Holy Spirit.”

BOYD.

“God’s Providence, mysterious and dark as we call it, is no doubt simple and bright on the other side. Move on ; the mighty aggregate of results is yet to be seen ; the pilgrim’s progress will come to an end.

“Man, redeemed, will find his home in Heaven ; and God, his Father, will wipe away all tears from his eyes. To Him be glory. Amen.”

HULETT.

November 10.

HOW TO PLEASE GOD.

"To please God—what a privilege to lie open to us day by day, and every hour of the day! The opportunities of doing this lie all around us, in the work of our callings, in the little calls which Divine Providence daily makes to us, in the little crosses which God requires us to take up; nay, in our very recreations. If work be done in the full view of God's assignment of our several tasks and spheres of labour, and under the consciousness of His presence, however secular in its character, it immediately becomes fit for presentation on the Altar. Place your offering, be it prayer, or alms' deed, or work, or submission, in Christ's Hand ; and the sun of God's favour shall shine out upon that offering, and the dew of His blessing shall descend upon it, and you shall be gladdened with your Father's smile."

GOUODBURN.

November 11.

ON COMPENSATIONS.

"One advantage goes and another comes. Life is a series of compensations ; never quite a blank, unless we cast God out of our thoughts."

MR. WYNYARD'S WARD.

"God's balance is wonderfully just. The great compensations are, of course, to come ; but even here life is one long compensation, and probably there is hardly any limit to His manifestation of Himself to a dying saint.

"The thorn in the flesh balanced Paul's glimpse of the third Heaven ; and again, 'My grace is sufficient' compensated that."

FROM A SERMON PREACHED IN THE PARISH  
CHURCH AT FOLKESTONE.

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November 12.

PRAYER.

"The key-note of the day is struck early. Some persons fail of interest in prayer by attempting to pray by the clock. Christians are under no law to the clock, they are children of liberty. Prayer may become a yoke of superstition instead of the wings of liberty. Take a few moments of your brightest hours for silent prayer. We should not choose for prayer those hours in which we are spent and worn ; hours good for nothing else.

"Many mar the enjoyment of prayer by very erroneous ideas of quantity ; they read of eminent Christians who pray by the hour—they therefore attempt immense prayer. Of course they fail."

"AIDS TO PRAYER."

"— Pray, pray, pray—there is no help but prayer ;

A breath that fleets beyond this iron world,  
And touches Him who made it."

TENNYSON.

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November 13.

ON A JEWISH PRAYER FOR "PARDON, RECONCILIATION, PEACE."

"How strange to us these words sound from the lips of a Jew! 'Pardon, reconciliation, peace.' Oh, that they knew Him in whom alone they are found! Most touching is the sight of the millions of Israel yearning for reconciliation, yet blind to the one reconciling Sacrifice. Let Israel be remembered by many before Israel's God."

DR. A. MOODY STUART.

"And where shall Israel lave their bleeding feet?

And when shall Zion's song again seem sweet?  
And Judah's melody once more rejoice  
The hearts that leaped before its heavenly voice?

"Tribes of the wandering foot and weary breast,  
How shall ye flee away and be at rest?  
The wild dove hath her nest, the fox his cave,  
Mankind their country, Israel but the grave."

HEBREW MELODIES."

November 14.

O U R H O M E.

"Speaking of the serene steadfast glory of that abode which in quiet pathos we commonly call 'the better world,' we sometimes name it the 'Summer Land,' and then again say or sing :

'There everlasting Spring abides,  
And never-withering flowers.'

Spring as an image of Heaven's ever fresh joys, and Summer to declare their perfection. But who ever connected thoughts of Autumn days with the far-away Land? No decay or change can enter there. Morning and noon, but no declining brightness—no gathering of the shadows, 'no night there.'

"It is the Presence, the everlasting Presence of God, which will make the eternal noon of Heaven."

THE AUTHOR OF "THE HARVEST OF  
A QUIET EYE."

November 15.

ALONE WITH GOD.

“Alone with Thee, my God ! alone with Thee !  
Thus wouldst Thou have it still—thus let it be.  
There is a secret chamber in each mind  
    Which none can find  
But He who made it ; none beside can know  
    Its joy or woe.  
Oft may I enter it, when pressed by care,  
    And find Thee there.  
So full of watchful love, Thou knowest the why  
    Of every sigh.  
Then all Thy righteous dealing shall I see,  
Alone with Thee, my God ! alone with Thee.

“The joys of earth are, like a summer day,  
    Fading away ;  
But in the twilight we may better trace  
    Thy wondrous grace.  
The homes of earth are emptied oft by death,  
    With chilling breath.  
The loved departed guest may ope no more  
    The well-known door ;—  
Still in that chamber sealed Thou’lt dwell  
    with me,  
And I with Thee, my God, alone with Thee.”

RYLE’S HYMNS.

November 16.

ON FAMILY PRAYER.

"Family prayer is a great duty, a great comfort, a great help, a great bond. It serves to knit together all in the house. It makes them one.

"It will bring down blessing from God, who says, especially with regard to family religion, 'Them that honour Me I will honour.'

"Let family prayer be a daily thing, and try to make it real, earnest, and spiritual; God, by His Holy Spirit, will help you in this. You know not what blessings your house may lose by not being a house of prayer."

THE "SUNDAY AT HOME."

"A family without prayer is like a house without a roof—it has no protection."

JAY.

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November 17.

T R U T H.

"The inquiry of truth, which is the wooing of it, and the belief of truth, which is the enjoyment of it, are the sovereign good of human nature."

LORD BACON.

WHAT IS TRUTH ?

"I am the way, and the *Truth*, and the life."

JOHN xiv. 6.

"It is just because He is the Truth that we cannot hang either His plan of salvation, or a creed, upon a single isolated text. Truth is not only love and holiness, but also wisdom and justice, and a thousand things more. God fore-orders, and to the Christian this is true. Man is free, and this also is undeniably true. Our beautiful collect prays for 'the knowledge of Thy truth.' And this it is which we shall find, full, perfect, and complete, in that other state for which we pray in the same breath, 'life everlasting.' Amen."

FROM "EVENING HOURS."

November 18.

CHRIST OUR BEST FRIEND.

"In all miseries and distresses you may be sure to know where to have a Friend to help and pity you, even in Heaven, Christ ; One whose nature, office, interest, relation, all do engage Him to your succour.

"You will find men, even friends, to be often to you unreasonable. Well, say to them all, 'If you will not pity me, I know One that will, One in Heaven, whose heart is touched with the feeling of all my infirmities ; and I will go and bemoan myself unto Him.'

"'Come boldly,' says the text, or, as it might be rendered, 'with open mouth,' to lay your complaints before Him, and you shall find grace and mercy to help in time of need."

THOMAS GOODWIN.

November 19.

THOUGHTS OF COMFORT.

"'Fear not.' This is a dissuasion from all fear that hath torment, from all undue anxiety and apprehension, from all excitement, foreboding, and solicitude which would bring pain. It affects all personal, all relative interests ; fear not for any of them. You may hope by Divine help to get well through all that comes to you in Divine Providence. God's Presence is so shed around us that in a moment, at any time, by one quick thought, by one pang of love or sorrow, or one eager grasp of prayer, we can open our souls to all the fulness of God.

"Let us be glad that God is so near, and that He has said that 'He will give His Holy Spirit to them that ask Him.'"

RALEIGH.



**November 20.**

**OUR HOME JOURNEY.**

“Death shuts in the light of this world, and  
is the daybreak of eternity. ‘Mors janua  
vitæ,’ death the gate of life.

“A Christian’s birth is like the Red Sea,  
that brings him into the wilderness ; his death  
is like Jordan, that brings him into Canaan.”

**MASON.**

“The good man’s life is an extract from  
God’s great book of record.”

**THE “SUNDAY AT HOME.”**

“How many have had to declare sickness  
healthful, losses painful, sorrows joyful, trials  
merciful ! How many, like Jacob, have thanked  
God for the stony pillow ! How many, like  
Joseph, have thanked God for their prison !  
How many, like St. John, have thanked God  
for the Isle of Patmos !”

**THE REV. A. C. THISELTON.**

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November 21.

CLINGING TO JESUS.

"There is always something perilous in intense, absorbing affection centred on *one*, one only; unless that One be the Friend whom we cannot love too much, and loving, cannot lose."

"The love of Christ which passeth knowledge.' No thought so comforts the heart from day to day as this, but it requires love to appreciate love.

"We do not know Christ's love comprehensively, that is in its extent, for it is infinite; but we know it experimentally, our hearts have tasted it. True, we know but little of it, but the little we do know is *certain*."

P HILLIPS.



November 22.

CHRIST'S NEARNESS.

“ ‘I am with thee,’ He hath said it  
In His truth and tender grace,  
Sealed the promise, grandly spoken,  
With how many a mighty token  
Of His love and faithfulness.

“ He is with thee ! In thy dwelling,  
Shielding thee from fear of ill,  
All thy burdens kindly bearing,  
For thy dear ones gently caring,  
Guarding, keeping, blessing still.

“ He is with thee ! with thee always,  
All the nights and all the days ;  
Never failing, never frowning,  
With His loving-kindness crowning,  
Tuning all thy life to praise.

“ He is with thee ! Thine own Master,  
Leading, loving to the end !  
Brightening joy, and lightening sorrow,  
*All* to-day, yet *more* to-morrow,  
King and Saviour, Lord and Friend.”

FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL.

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November 23.

“CONTINUE IN PRAYER, AND WATCH IN THE SAME” (COL. iv. 2).

“Watch thereunto ; as a sentinel suspecting the approach of an enemy ; as a watchman guarding the city during the darkness of the night.

“Our heart needs all this care ; spiritual enemies are near ; the darkness of the soul exposes it to danger ; the disease of sin requires watchful treatment, and the unparalleled deceitfulness of the affections can never be safely trusted for a moment. We must watch before prayer in order to dismiss the world from our thoughts, to gather up our minds in God, and to implore the Holy Spirit’s help. We must watch during prayer to guard against distraction. We must watch after prayer in order that we may act consistently with what we have been imploring of Almighty God, and wait His time for answering us.”

BISHOP DANIEL WILSON.

November 24.

**OUR TRANSIENT LIFE.**

"The glory of life's morning must indeed go, but it may be invested rather than spent ; and its powers and energies given to One who will hereafter return the loan with usury.

"'He that loseth his life for My sake shall find it.' Ay, and life indeed then ; life everlasting ; life mature, yet ever youthful ; with fulness of joy, and pleasures for evermore."

**THE AUTHOR OF "THE HARVEST OF A QUIET EYE."**

"Every day ought to be regarded as a precious unit in the sum of our appointed days, standing by itself, yet linked in one chain with the past and the future, and to be separately accounted for."

**FROM THE "SUNDAY AT HOME."**

November 25.

GO FORWARD.

"If we take Christ for the shadow of a great Rock in a weary land, we may rejoice in wilderness teachings, knowing that they are God's call to Canaan's glory ; knowing that they are God's finger-posts in the desert, for pilgrims who might lose their way ; and knowing that soon sorrow shall be no more, and temptations no more, and sin no more, and troubles no more, and time no more."

THISELTON.

"Then go on thy way, content  
With whatever God has sent.  
Do not try to pierce the cloud,  
Which thy future doth enshroud.  
Take the mingled good and ill ;  
Do thy smallest duty still,  
In the strength which shall be given,  
When thy need is, straight from Heaven,  
Day by day."

E. J. TUPPER.



November 26.

USES OF SORROW.

"The Apostle tells the saints (Heb. x. 36) that they have need of patience; and their experience tells them that they have need of something to exercise their patience. And their needs are different; some are knotty pieces, and need more; others are tender, and upon them less will serve. The shaking of the rod will do more on some spirits than the smart of it on others; but all need something.

"The Lord will neither overdo, nor underdo; every one shall have his load, and no more; no more than they can bear, and no less than their need requires.

"The Lord delights not in His children's tears. 'He doth not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men;' but yet He had rather they cry than perish."

RICHARD ALLEINE.

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November 27.

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

"The business of the world is, after all, a noble and worthy occupation for a Christian man. He is to do it with activity and liveliness, busily, diligently. Every day is to have its full tale of work, and life is to have its full tale also, so that at its close he may say, 'I have not been idle.'

"We are to do *all* our business as a service to Christ."

COWAN.

"When God's children desire to have Him in their hearts, He advances into the centre of their life. He trains them for glory by what we call their fortunes ; by reverses, by tears, by trials, by manifold temptations, by touching them in their tenderest part ; sometimes by a sunshine of prosperity, which makes their heart expand in gratitude to Him."

GOULBURN.



November 28.

OUR FRIENDS IN HEAVEN.

REV. vii. 13, 14.

“Praise to the Lord, for they are past,  
They are gone safe before ;  
They have borne the wildest tempest-blast,  
Have heard the last storm roar.

“There are Judæa’s martyr-band,  
There Cappadocia’s sons ;  
And bright and beautiful there stand  
Our own beloved ones !

“Yes ! blest and beautiful and bright,  
How fair their white robes gleam—  
Oh ! to behold the glorious sight  
With not a veil between.

“Yet once, like ours, each aching brow  
Throbbed in the sultry noon ;  
Their spirits sank, as ours do now,  
'Neath midnight's chilling moon.

“And once, like us, with trembling fear,  
Their unknown path they viewed ;  
Now God hath wiped away each tear  
From all that multitude.”

November 29.

SELF-EXAMINATION.

"When in the society of those who specially love and esteem us, we should make it a time for deep self-examination ; it is so easy for us to fancy that we are what we are thought to be, and when others are looking upon the brightness, we should look into ourselves for the shades."

"Praise is apt to raise a mist before our eyes ; we should sift ourselves to know if we really deserve it, and if not, we should ask by what treachery we have *seemed* to deserve it. Those are our best friends who blame us, whatever be their motive. Of course we can learn lessons from praise as well as from blame, but we have the harder task of piercing behind the mist, and of conning it over afterwards to see if it was really merited."

M. A. C.

November 30.

IN MEMORIAM.

"BERTHA,

'AGED THREE AND A HALF.

'Gone from this room into the next.' "

AN EPITAPH IN CROYDON CEMETERY.

Dying thoughts of General Sir Hope Grant:—  
"His mind was singularly bright and clear to  
the last. He said, 'I know that my sins are  
forgiven. I know they are washed in my  
Saviour's blood.' He several times spoke of  
dying as 'going into another room'—'passing  
through a dark archway.' When asked if he  
were happy he replied, 'Perfectly happy.'

"Many were the prayers offered for him by  
the soldiers, but human love was not to have  
its way. The Great Captain of our salvation  
had ordered differently, and the faithful soldier  
gently fell asleep in Him, March 7, 1875."

FROM THE "SUNDAY AT HOME."

December 1.

THE HIGHER LIFE.

"We must first be safe before we can *feel* safe; they ought to follow each other invariably, because God's Word may be altogether relied on. Yet if faith be only such that we rest on the rock, God's Word says we are safe, even though we do not trust enough to make us feel secure and happy. We should look up from self to One standing all the time close to us, and who says simply, 'Wilt thou be made whole?' But on the other hand, let no one rest satisfied *without* feeling safe. It is a dangerous thing to be content to live below our privileges. We must never rest satisfied with less than an abiding sense of peace with God. 'The joy of the Lord is our strength.'"

FROM THE "QUIVER."

December 2.

JEHOVAH JIREH.

"Wait God's time, hope in God's mercy, trust God's love, believe in God's faithfulness. There is something going on which you cannot see. 'What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter.' Some work is in progress, something in which *you* are interested; lie passive in His Hands, and let your soul repose upon His mercy and His love."

BATEMAN.

"In the days of fear and anxiety, when you do not know how it will go with you, oh! look to Jesus on the cross; and learn the lesson of practical confidence in God's disposing love and wisdom, as you think that surely He who provided that precious sacrifice will never fail to justify the hope and promise of the name the patriarch gave Him—'Jehovah Jireh.'"

BOYD.

December 3.

#### GLORIFYING GOD.

"My Heaven is to please God and glorify Him, and to give all to Him, and be wholly devoted to His glory ; that is the Heaven I long for. It is no matter where I shall be stationed there, whether I have a high or a low seat, but to love and praise God is all. Had I a thousand souls, if they were worth anything I would give them all to God, but I have nothing to give when all is done. I long to be in Heaven, praising and glorifying God with the holy angels. All my desire is to glorify Him ; my heart goes out to the burying-place, it seems to me a desirable place ; but oh ! to glorify God—that is above all."

BRAINERD.

"I am now going to see that for which I have lived and studied."

BAXTER, *on his Death-bed.*

December 4.

DIFFICULTIES OF SCRIPTURE.

"The difficulties of Scripture will cause no anxiety to him who has once found Christ, found Him as the Saviour for his need, found Him as his justification before God, found Him as the true peace of the heart, the perfect rest of the soul. If through the power of the Holy Ghost we thus find Christ, difficulties whether explained or unexplained, will never by any means hurt us. When God has told us so much, we can surely afford to let a few things stand over till the future disclosures of eternity. Things which are for the exercise of our faith now, will, in their fuller development, be the meditation of the glorified intellect hereafter. Partial knowledge is both a kindness to us and a necessity."

(*Abridged.*) DANIEL MOORE.

December 5.

TRUST CHRIST'S CARE.

"Cast on Jesus all thy care,  
Jesus is for ever nigh.  
He will all thy burdens bear,  
And each pressing want supply.

"Follow where His footsteps lead,  
Do not question, but believe.  
Call on Him in all thy need,  
Thou wilt surely help receive.

"Lord, I would, I do, submit,  
Still committing all to Thee ;  
What Thy wisdom sees most fit  
Must be, shall be, best for me."

FROM THE REV. J. BICKERSTETH'S  
HYMN-BOOK.

"Why not go about the Lord's business,  
and trust your difficulty to Him?"

FROM AN AMERICAN WRITER.



December 6.

LIGHTS AND SHADOWS.

"If we feel desolate and oppressed, we say that God has hidden His Face from us ; forgetting that He is ever the same, that *His* love cannot fail us ; though many a season of grief and sorrow must be passed, and many a season of brightness and gladness too, ere we are fitted for the full sunshine of His presence in His kingdom above.

"Let us beware of considering the God, whose Providence is indeed changing, to be Himself changeable. Let it console us to reflect that the people of God in every age have sorrowed and suffered as we do, and that there are some who have passed under darker clouds, and been brought out into brighter sunshine."

DR. BAYLEE.

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December 7.

ENTERING OUR HOME.

"Wherever Jesus came when upon earth  
He brought peace and happiness ; wherever  
He trod He seemed to dissipate grief. It  
could not therefore be possible that sorrow  
could ever intrude into His presence in Heaven.  
Sorrow and sighing are often as the Christian's  
convoy on earth, but they quit him for a better  
convoy the moment the disembodied spirit  
escapes from its earthly tabernacle.

"Oh, think ! to step on shore and that  
shore Heaven ; to take hold of a Hand, and  
find it God's Hand—to breathe a new air, and  
find it celestial air—to feel invigorated, and find  
it immortality. Oh, think ! to pass from storm  
and tempest to one unbroken smile—to wake  
up and find it glory !"

MRS. CHARLESWORTH, FROM "OLIVER  
OF THE MILL."

J. Bickersteth's dying words :— "Happy,  
happy, happy, happy."



December 8.

C H R I S T'S L O V E.

“It passeth knowledge! that dear love of Thine,  
Lord Jesus! Saviour! yet this soul of mine  
Would of that love, in all its depth and length,  
Its height, and breadth, and everlasting  
strength,

Know more and more.

“It passeth telling! that dear love of Thine,  
Lord Jesus! Saviour! yet these lips of mine  
Would fain proclaim, to sinners far and near,  
A love which can remove all guilty fear,  
And love beget.

“It passeth praises! that dear love of Thine,  
Lord Jesus! Saviour! yet this heart of mine  
Would sing a love so rich, so full, so free,  
Which brought home undone sinners like to  
me,

Right home to God.

\* \* \* \* \*

“And when, Lord Jesus, Thy dear Face I see,  
When at Thy lofty throne I bend the knee,  
Then of Thy love in all its breadth and length,  
Its height, and depth, and everlasting strength,  
My soul shall sing, and find her endless rest  
In loving Thee.”

December 9.

#### THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD.

"There is an eye of infinite tenderness that can read the secret vibrations of irritated nerves ; a Heart that cares for them, and can wholly understand all that jars on the delicate chords, from the least discord to the greatest ; and a Hand that can aid and send means of relief."

MRS. CHARLESWORTH.

"When I am puzzled, when I am anxious about the future of those so dear to me ; when I want to interfere, to help, to hinder, I think '*L'homme propose, mais Dieu dispose,*' and I am at rest."

THE AUTHOR OF "MARY CONSTANT."

"O Life ! for storm or calm we stand  
'Neath the safe keeping of Our Father's Hand."

STONE.

December 10.

**N O B L E L I V E S.**

“It is not given to all to have their names inscribed in the annals of their country, or to wear the martyr’s crown ; but thousands have lived a noble life in the service of the Master, and died in a faith which gives life again ; having soothed the sorrows and healed the wounds of innumerable unnamed sufferers, and passed into a higher sphere, where their saintly faces are encircled with a halo which reflects the love and purity of the Divine Son.”

R. EDGAR.

“Oh ! for the robes of whiteness;  
    Oh ! for the tearless eyes ;  
    Oh ! for the glorious brightness  
        Of those unclouded skies.”

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December 11.

B E R E A V E M E N T.

"Strange anguish fills the heart that turns away, to leave alone, in earth's last slumber, the form of one round whom the deepest affections and tenderest associations of life are entwined ; to leave that form to rest alone within the quiet grave. O faith Divine ! that then can trust its all with God—the sleeping body to His holy keeping ; the riven heart, bereft of its treasure, to his healing Hand ; and life, made desolate of earthly joy, to His grace, which can illumine with celestial radiance the shadows that otherwise would gather round the soul in darkening gloom. 'They shall be mine, saith the Lord, in that day when I make up My Jewels.'"

MRS. CHARLESWORTH, FROM "OLIVER  
OF THE MILL."

December 12.

**THOUGHTS ON CHRIST'S LIFE AND CHRIST'S  
POWER.**

"Within the compass of those three-and-thirty years, betwixt the first smile of infant love that went to the wondering Mary's heart, and that last lingering look of kindness bent down on the up-looking disciples, as the cloud bore Him out of their sight, what a kind and amount of service, submission, and suffering was gone through !

"Christ's Hand is all-powerful to protect, all-wise and gracious to arrange. The ordering of everything in the earthly history of each one of His disciples is with Him, nothing is too insignificant for His care. Every circumstance of your future lot, every comfort you are to enjoy, every trial you are to meet, it rests with Him to manage."

DR. HANNA.

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December 13.

ON WORKING FOR CHRIST TILL THE LAST.

"From the innate love of life, and from the promise of long life to the godly, it is clearly our duty to seek to carry the vigour of youth, as far as possible, into advancing years; and so to live that the conditions on which the promise of the Divine Father depends may be fulfilled. You have peculiar influence in the world by virtue of your age. Around the aged man and his opinions there abides a sanctity.

"Abraham is the first man referred to in the Scriptures as being old. 'He lived a shorter time,' says Philo, the learned Jew, 'than very many of his ancestors, and yet he condensed into it more true work. His pilgrimage was less, but his walking with God was more; he was younger as men estimate years; but he was older in the years of Heaven.'"

THE REV. J. H. HITCHENS.

December 14.

G O D ' S   H E L P .

"When I have done everything that can be done, and see no way to the end of it, I just say, 'Lord, my brain can do no more in this thing, yet I believe that it is a right thing, so may it please Thee to give me a push.' And I get the push; for as surely as I have asked for help, help comes—the thing gets done."

SIR JOSIAH MASON, OF THE ORPHANAGE,  
NEAR BIRMINGHAM.

"God imparteth by the way  
Strength sufficient for the day."

"It is very safe and comforting to plead with God, when we seem to fail with our fellow-creatures."

M. W.

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December 15.

HOW TO BE REMEMBERED.

"Thousands of men breathe, move, and live, pass off the stage of life, and are heard of no more. Why? They did not a particle of good in the world; none were blest by them, none could point to them as the instruments of their salvation. Not a line they wrote, not a word they spoke, could be recalled; and so they perished—their light went out in darkness, and they were no more remembered than the insects of yesterday.

"Will *you* thus live and die, O man immortal? Live for something. Do good, and leave behind you a monument that the storms of time can never destroy. Write your name by kindness, love, and mercy on the hearts of those with whom you come in contact year by year, and you will never be forgotten. No; your name, your deeds, will be as legible on the hearts you leave behind, as the stars on the brow of evening. Good deeds will shine as brightly on the earth as the stars of Heaven."

DR. CHALMERS.

December 16.

THE MOTHER'S PAGE.

"You are tending an immortal being; a future seraph may be cradled in your arms. If care and anxiety press on your soul as you think what your child *is*; feeble, helpless, 'born to trouble,' there is deep rapture in the thought of what he *may be*. Oh! dedicate him now to his God, make him a little ark of your prayers."

A. L. O. E.

"For every responsibility which we have to meet, He offers to qualify us.

"For every height which we have to climb, He furnishes an inward strength."

GOULEURN.

"Fear not, plead on; those names which you cannot part with, which no discouragement can cause to drop out of your prayers, were surely first engraven on Christ's heart."

"FAMILY TREASURY."

December 17.

TENDERNESS TOWARDS OTHERS.

"Those who have right on their side can best afford to pass over an offence ; and the higher the nature the more readily will it take in view the standing point of the offender, which will often account for the offence. A low range of vision cannot understand, and therefore fails to excuse or forget, or forgive."

"He who has died for our sins, and risen for our justification, said, 'My Father and your Father,' as the inner circle of infinite tenderness ; before He said, 'My God and your God,' as the outer circle of infinite power."

MRS. CHARLESWORTH.

"God is near you ; throw yourself fearlessly upon Him."

ROBERTSON.

December 18.

"THEY KNEW HIM."—LUKE xxiv. 31.

"In some hour when you were all alone, no man with you, Christ came to you, and told you who and what He was; that He was your Brother, your elder Brother, who had passed into the heavens. And pouring out over you the love of His more than brother's heart, He let you know that He would never leave you comfortless, that He would come to you, be ever with you here; and that already He had made all the arrangements for your coming to Him hereafter, and dwelling beside Him, amid eternal and unimaginable joys."

DR. HANNA.

"Spirit of Life and Immortality! leaven our souls with the grace of Christ, that in the endless future we may bear His image. Amen."

HULLETT.

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December 19.

OUR LOSS THEIR GAIN.

To a daughter on the death of a parent:—

“I know well that your heart is full of sorrow, but not unmixed sorrow, though you have lost such a mother as very few children have ever been privileged to possess. To have been trained by her is a great privilege and responsibility; and now during this time of trial you will not give way to any over-indulgence of grief, but rather rise to the fulfilment of duty. I look forward to a peaceful though sorrowful meeting with you all; at times I seem so to realise the perfect bliss that she is enjoying, that I am filled with thankfulness, but when I look to the chasm that her absence has caused, it seems as if it never could be quite filled, till we also have joined the blessed company of Heaven. We journey to a land where all is stability and peace.”

December 20.

THE INVALID'S PAGE.

"Lord, let me never be tempted beyond my strength ; Thou only knowest how weak I am."

"Why need I dread so much ? Have I not often known, naturally and spiritually, way made where I could see no way ? Have I not seen hard things made easy ? O that I could trust more, and leave these things ; more fully committing my body, and soul, and spirit to my faithful Creator."

MRS. FRY.

"We are in God's Hands, we and our times, and the events of our times."

J. BICKERSTETH.

"I have called Thee Abba, Father,  
I have stayed my heart on Thee.  
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather,  
All must work for good to me."

LYTE.

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December 21.

DEPENDENCE ON GOD.

"Simple as it may seem, it is a great attainment really to live by faith,—to depend on God for daily bread, daily mercy, daily strength, daily wisdom, daily guidance, daily protection, daily happiness; and in this spirit to fulfil daily duty, ever faithful to do *now* what one's hand findeth to do.

"It is only thus that to-morrow can be safely confided to the care of Divine Providence, the contingencies of the future to Divine wisdom and mercy. Leave all on Him by venturesome believing. There is nothing which Christ seems to love so much as faith in Him."

"CHRISTIAN TREASURY."

"No prayer is lost that has found God."

N.

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December 22.

**REST IN HEAVEN.**

“I hear a voice at dawn of day,  
And to my heart it seems to say,  
When sorrow dims hope’s brightest ray,  
There’s rest in Heaven.

“I hear it at the evening tide,  
When fitful shadows round us glide,  
Still whispering gently at my side,  
There’s rest in Heaven.

“E’en at noon’s busy hour I hear  
The same sweet voice accost my ear,  
With power to stay the rising tear,—  
There’s rest in Heaven.

“Blest words! which tell of nought but joy,  
Of endless rest without alloy;  
Well may they oft our thoughts employ—  
There’s rest in Heaven.

“Spirit of life and love Divine,  
Subdue my heart and make it Thine,  
That I may dwell upon as mine,  
That rest in Heaven.”

**FROM RYLE’S “HYMNS FOR THE CHURCH  
ON EARTH.”**

December 23.

LOOKING UNTO JESUS.

"We must be 'looking unto Jesus'—unto Jesus, and not to what we do for Him. Too much taken up with our work, we may forget our Master; it is possible to have the hands full and the heart empty. Taken up with our Master we cannot forget our work; if the heart is filled with His love, how can the hands not be active in His service?

"'Looking unto Jesus,' and not to the apparent success of our efforts.

"Apparent success is not the measure of real success; and besides, God has not commanded us to succeed, but to work. It is of our work that He will require an account, and not of our success. Let us look without ceasing, not to our hearts which are always changing, but to Jesus who is always the same."

FROM THE FRENCH, ADOLPHE MONOD.



December 24.

CHRISTMAS EVE.

"Sing first of all, 'I cast my sins on Jesus ;' and you will find that as a kind of sublime and heart-lifting chorus, a Christmas chorale, there then comes the glad completion, 'I cast my *cares* on Jesus.' Sin first, care after."

THE REV. S. B. JAMES.

"What a memorable night was that which ushered in the wondrous day, the most momentous ever marked in the annals of time, since reckoning of days or years was made. The unconscious shepherds in the fields had no other thought but of their flock ; but what a morning did the angels call them to celebrate ! Arise, and go in quest of Jesus. 'Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good-will towards men.'"

HAWKER.

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December 25.

THE NATIVITY.

"None can tell which is the true anniversary of our Saviour's wondrous birth, but we may well believe that the day is marked in Heaven; that in the endless shining of the celestial splendour some momentary glory, some seraphic note of exceeding gladness, some beam of surpassing graciousness from the Father, some hand waved downwards towards the circling earth, notes the earthly birth-time of the Redeemer of lost souls."

THE REV. S. B. JAMES.

"Truly it is a glorious thing to follow the Lamb; it is the highway to glory; but when you see Him in His own country at home, you will think you never saw Him before."

RUTHERFORD, 17TH CENTURY.

December 26.

A N A N T H E M.

“Without—the snow waste and the leaden sky,  
Dead leaves, and silent ways ;  
Within the church—glad voices, clear and high,  
Chanting a song of praise.

“‘ And God shall wipe away all tears,’ they sing,  
In solemn tones and sweet ;  
Is this an echo of the songs that ring  
Along the golden street ?

“Here, even here, amid the winter snow,  
With gloomy clouds above,  
These frozen hearts of ours revive and glow,  
Touched by Divinest love.

“Across the graves, across the desert sod,  
And through the mist of years,  
The strain rings on, triumphant still, ‘And God  
Shall wipe away all tears.’

“O weepers in a weary world to-day,  
By toil and grief opprest,  
Lift up your hearts, for ‘God shall wipe away  
All tears,’ and give you rest.”

SARAH DOUDNEY.

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December 27.

THE KEEPER OF ISRAEL.

"Nothing in all the world so displeaseth the Lord as to doubt His mercy.

"Stick fast unto Him, and He will stick fast by you. Be certain all the hairs of your head are numbered. Be certain your good Father hath appointed bounds on the which the devil dares not look.

"Commit yourself to Him ; He is, hath been, and will be, your Keeper. Cast your care on Him, and He will care for you.

"Let Christ be your Pattern to work by ; let Him be your Example to follow."

JOHN BRADFORD, THE MARTYR.

"Take Him who walked by night on the waves, to be thy Pilot in storm and darkness."

N.

December 28.

HOME YEARNINGS.

"He giveth His beloved sleep."

"Rest, simply *rest*, is one of the deep joys which toiling men and women, with no impatient weakness, look for, and at times long for, in the 'Land o' the Leal.' Rest, pure rest; rest from toil, rest from sorrow, rest from temptation, rest from sin.

"Even in the heathen world, yearnings and aspirations towards some unknown but groped after 'Land o' the Leal' are to be found. Cicero writes (*De Senectute*): 'Oh glorious day when I shall go to that Divine conference and gathering of spirits! When also I may take my leave of the turmoil and pollution of this present life. I shall then depart not only to the great and wise and mighty, whose names have stirred my blood, but to the dear hearts which especially are mine.'"

THE AUTHOR OF "THE HARVEST OF  
A QUIET EYE."

December 29.

THE SILVER LINING.

"What seem the darkest dispensations of Providence, when viewed from the line of shadow, exhibit 'no darkness at all' when viewed from other directions. Seen from the regions where angels dwell, no eclipse is visible. If we could look at ourselves from some other direction than our own, *we* also should see that, even during a total eclipse, the sun is still bright around us."

NEWMAN HALL.

"Bid anxiety be gone. God will complete what He has begun, if only you will not frustrate His intentions. Leave all to Him, and *you* also shall see the salvation of the Lord."

HART.

"In patience wait for peace."

N.

December 30.

**GOD'S JEWELS.**

"How precious must be the jewel held in a casket of such workmanship as the body."

N.

"Believers are like jewels, (1) in their preciousness ; (2) in having each a history ; (3) in the work bestowed on them. God moulds us now by the kind words of a friend, now by the unkind words of an enemy. What a day it will be when He makes up His jewels ! "

**THE REV. A. BROWN.**

"The pictures of all lives are locked up in the eternal galleries, and we may not hold the keys ; but when God's voice speaks the word, the doors shall be opened, and when we go in we shall all behold, and understand."

**OUR OWN FIRESIDE.**

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December 31.

IN MEMORIAM.

“Ten thousand times ten thousand,  
In sparkling raiment bright,  
The armies of the ransomed saints  
Throng up the steeps of light.  
”Tis finished ! all is finished !  
Their fight with death and sin ;  
Throw open wide the golden gates,  
And let the victors in.

“Oh, then what raptured greetings  
On Canaan’s happy shore,  
What knitting severed friendships up,  
Where partings are no more !  
Then eyes with joy shall sparkle,  
That brimmed with tears of late ;  
Orphans no longer fatherless,  
Nor widows desolate.

“Bring near Thy great salvation,  
Thou Lamb for sinners slain.  
Fill up the roll of Thine elect,  
Then take Thy power and reign.  
Appear, Desire of Nations,  
Thine exiles long for home.  
Show in the heavens Thy promised sign,  
Thou Prince and Saviour, come.”

“Amen, even so come, Lord Jesus.”

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